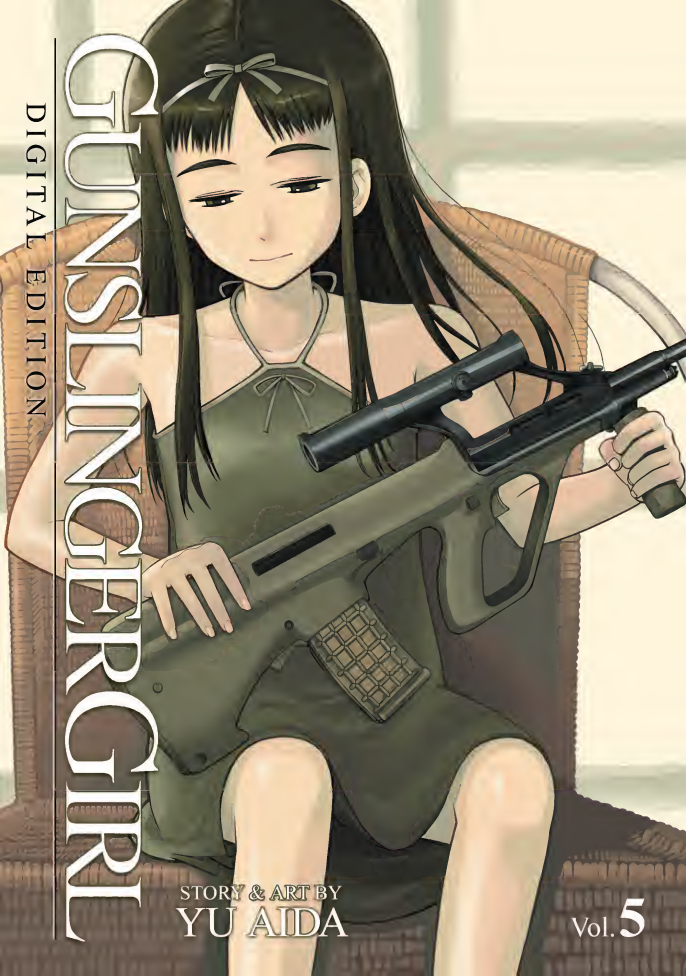


DIGITAL EDITION

GUNSLINGER GIRL

STORY & ART BY
YU AIDA

Vol. 5





SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

GUNSLINGER GIRL

VOLUME 5

story and art by YU AIDA

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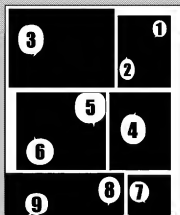
Ebook Edition: July 2017

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at



CAST OF CHARACTERS



HENRIETTA

The only survivor of a slaughtered family of six. Thanks to her "conditioning" when she was converted into a cyborg, she is blindly in love with her handler, Jose.



RICO

Former quadriplegic. Innocent and cheerful, even the most common everyday things bring her much joy. Her handler is Jean.



TRIELA

Smart and responsible, she is an "older sister" figure for the other cyborgs. She was defeated only once, when she faced the hitman "Pinocchio" in his Montalcino home.



CLAES

Triela's roommate. When her handler Raballo was killed, she became the Agency's "guinea pig" cyborg. All cyborg developments are first tested on her.



ANGELICA

The first prototype cyborg. She was the first to start displaying side effects to the cyborg conversion process, and has an acute dependency on the "drug" used. Her handler is Marco.



JOSE

Ex-military. Generally, he is very kind to Henrietta, but he is beginning to find himself disturbed at how much he unconsciously imposes his late sister's image onto her.



JEAN

Jose's older brother. Very serious-minded and business-like. He is the cyborg handlers' leader and field commander for Section 2 operations.



HILSHIRE

German. Former detective with Europol. He tries very hard to be kind to Triela, but has difficulty in figuring out what kind of distance there should be in their relationship.



MARCO

Ex-military special forces. When he was discharged due to an injury, he took up a job with the Agency. He has trouble dealing with feelings of helplessness and frustration as he watches Angelica's condition deteriorate day by day.



PINOCCHIO

A naturally gifted killer. He is guarding Franco and Franca on Cristiano's orders.



CRISTIANO

Conservative leader of the Milan Group, a part of Padania's Five Republics Faction. He raised Pinocchio.



FRANCO

Professional bomb-maker. Franca's partner.



FRANCA

Five Republics Faction terrorist. Following her own cause, she is a freelance activist and bomb-maker. Currently partnered with Franco.



PATRICIA

Marco's ex-fiancée. She works for a publishing company.



PRISCILLA

Agent for Section 2. Her main responsibilities center around data analysis.



RENZO

Agent for Section 2. He serves as the lead for all regular agents and as an assistant to the cyborg handlers.



LORENZO

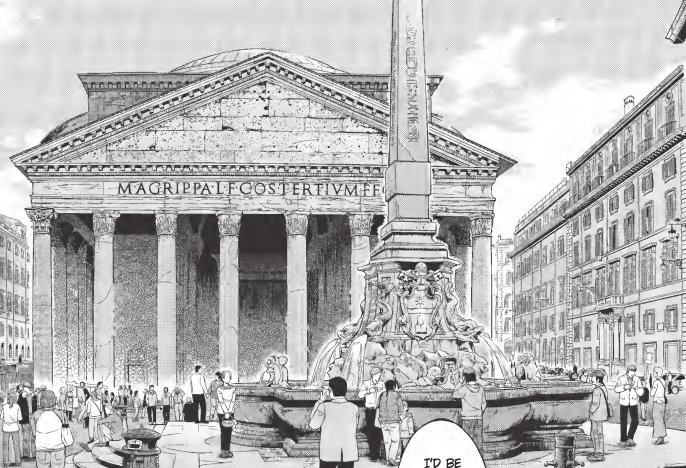
Section 2 chief. Formerly employed with the Ministry of State.



MONICA MARIA PETRIS

Director of both Section 1 and 2.





I'D BE
HAPPY
EVEN IF
YOU WERE
JUST A
PLAIN OLD
BEAT COP,
YOU
KNOW.

ONCE
WE GET
MARRIED
...

THAT
AND MY
PUBLISHING
COMPANY
JOB WOULD
STILL GIVE
US MORE
THAN
ENOUGH
INCOME.

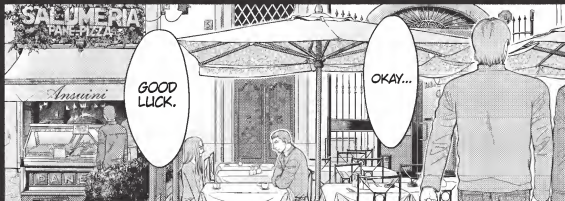
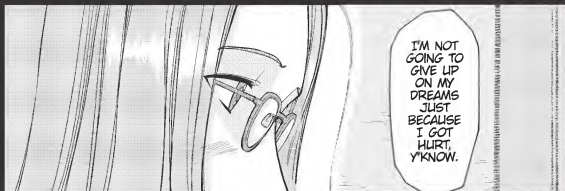


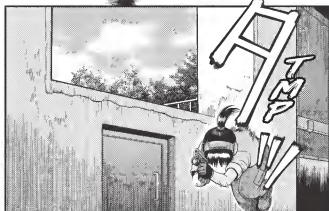
ROTONDA
AL PANTHEON

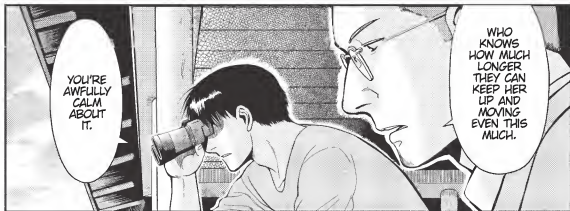
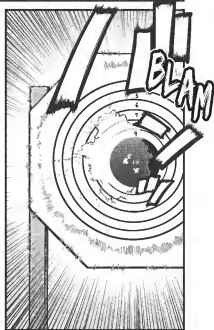
BAR - RISTORANTE - LIVE MUSIC

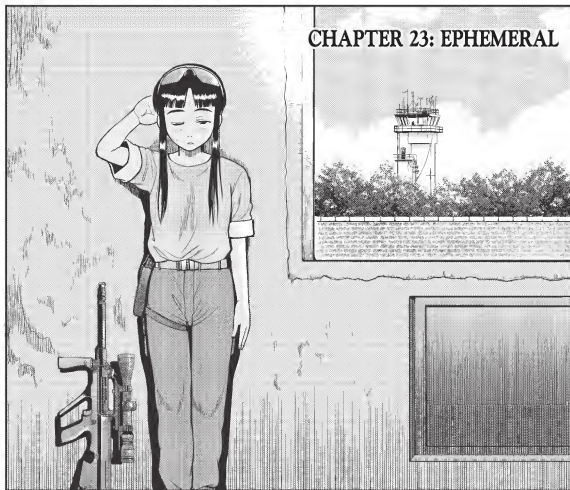
CUCINA TRADIZIONALE
ITALIANA

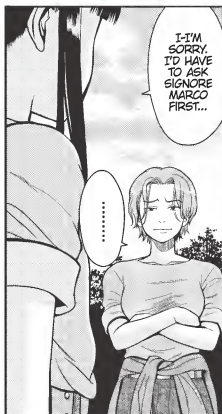
- SERVIZIO INTERNO
- SERVICE INSIDE











I-I'M
SORRY.
I'D HAVE
TO ASK
SIGNORE
MARCO
FIRST...

.....



HEYA,
ANGELICA.

YES,
SIGNO-
RINA
PRIS-
CILLA?



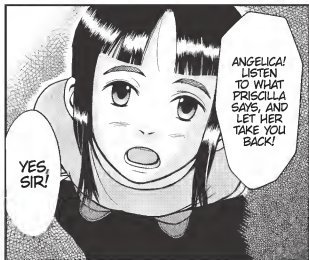
HUH
?

LOOKS
LIKE YOUR
TRAINING'S
ALL DONE
FOR THE
DAY. WANT
ME TO GIVE
YOU A RIDE
HOME?



NOPE!
GO
AHEAD!

YOU MIND
IF I GIVE
ANGIE A
RIDE BACK
TO THE CLUB-
HOUSE?



YES,
SIR!

ANGELICA!
LISTEN
TO WHAT
PRISCILLA
SAYS, AND
LET HER
TAKE YOU
BACK!



YEAH
?

HEY,
MARCO!



YES,
SIGNO-
RINA
PRIS-
CILLA.

HANG
ON
TIGHT
NOW,
ANGIE.



HENCE-
FORTH,
YOU ARE
TO CALL
ME JUST
"PRIS-
CILLA."

UNDER
STAND?

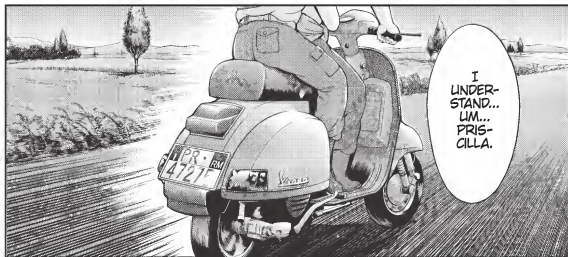


SO IT'S
"SIGNO-
RINA"
AGAIN,
IS IT?

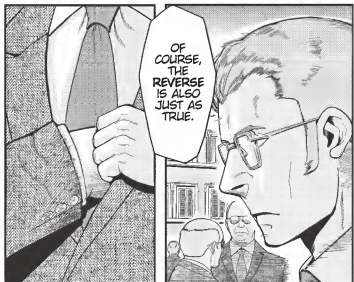
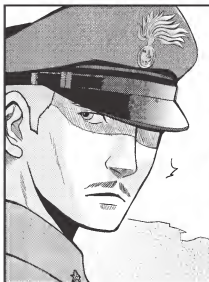
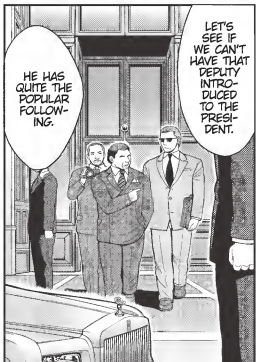


ALL
RIGHT,
ANGIE.
HERE'S
AN ORDER.
AND MARCO
DID TELL
YOU THAT
YOU HAVE TO
LISTEN TO ME,
REMEM-
BER?

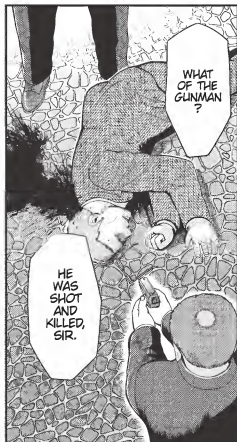
HUH
?



I
UNDER-
STAND...
UM...
PRIS-
CILLA.



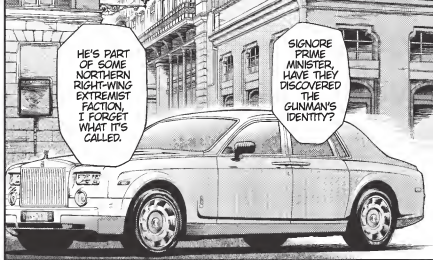






AND WHAT TIMES THEY ARE. THE "TRUTH" IN THIS COUNTRY IS ALL TOO OFTEN CREATED BY HUMAN HANDS.

UNFORTUNATE, BUT A "TRUTH" NONE THE LESS...



HE'S PART OF SOME NORTHERN RIGHT-WING EXTREMIST FACTION. I FORGET WHAT IT'S CALLED.

SIGNORE PRIME MINISTER, HAVE THEY DISCOVERED THE GUNMAN'S IDENTITY?



OF COURSE, IT WILL... A TERRIBLY CONVENIENT MONIKER, THAT. A TERRIBLY CONVENIENT GROUP FOR TIMES LIKE THIS.

SO IT WILL BE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED AS AN ATTACK BY PADANIA?

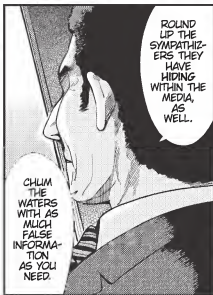


IT SEEMS SEVERAL FACTIONS HAVE BEGUN SQUABBLING AMONGST THEMSELVES OVER THEIR IDEALS AND OVERALL DIRECTION.

SO WHAT IS PADANIA ACTUALLY UP TO THESE DAYS, MONICA?



THEY MAY BE CONVENIENT FOR TIMES LIKE THIS, BUT THEY ARE STILL TOO DANGEROUS TO BE LEFT TO THEIR OWN DEVICES.



ROUND UP THE SYMPATHIZERS THEY HAVE HIDING WITHIN THE MEDIA, AS WELL.

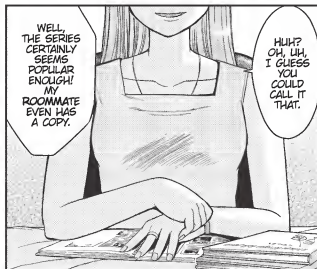
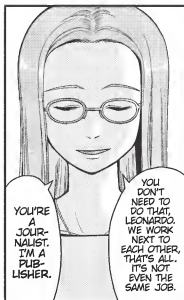
CHLIM THE WATERS WITH AS MUCH FALSE INFORMATION AS YOU NEED.

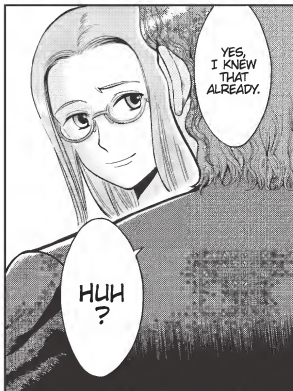


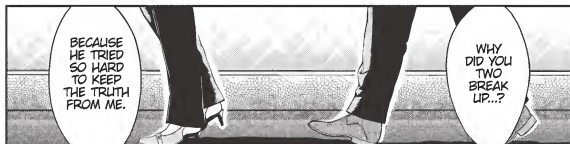
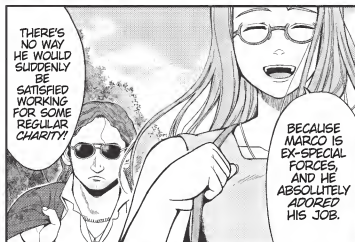
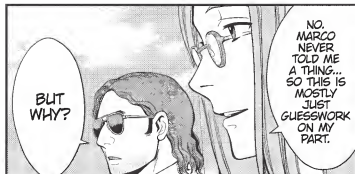
A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY IF I EVER SAW ONE. GO ON THE OFFENSIVE.

YES, SIR.





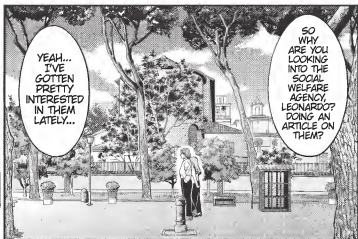






HE
HAPPENED
TO BE
NEARBY
WHEN A
LOCAL
POLITICIAN
WAS SHOT.

THE
PHOTO
SHOWS
A LITTLE
KID
CARRYING
THE GUN.



YEAH...
I'VE
GOTTEN
PRETTY
INTERESTED
IN THEM
LATELY...

SO
WHY
ARE YOU
LOOKING
INTO THE
SOCIAL
WELFARE
AGENCY,
LEONARDO?
DOING AN
ARTICLE ON
THEM?



AN
AMATEUR
PHOTOGRA-
PHER TOOK
IT SOME
TIME LAST
MONTH IN
FROSINONE
...

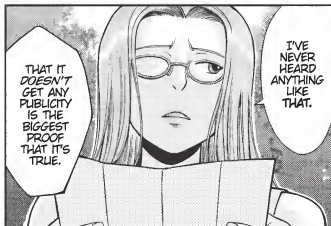


SEE,
THERE
WAS THIS
ONE
PHOTO
THAT
FOUND ITS
WAY TO
OUR OFFICES.



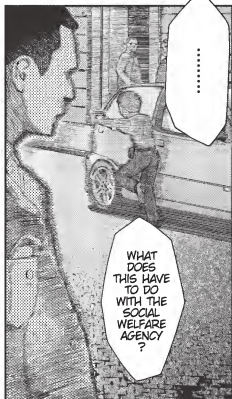
IT'S A
RUMOR
THAT'S
ALL
OVER
THE
UNDER-
WORLD.

THAT AGENCY
CALLS ITSELF
A "CHARITY"
BECAUSE IT
TAKES IN KIDS,
THEN IT
TURNS THEM
INTO BRAIN-
WASHED
KILLERS.



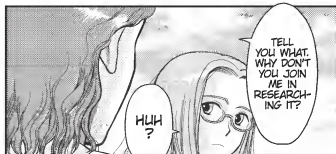
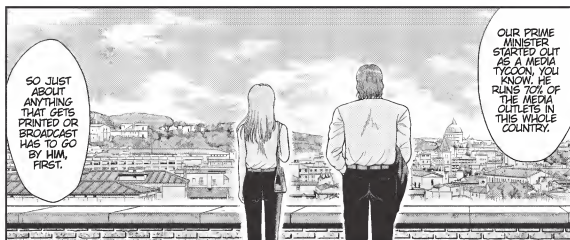
THAT IT
DOESN'T
GET ANY
PUBLICITY
IS THE
BIGGEST
PROOF
THAT IT'S
TRUE.

I'VE
NEVER
HEARD
ANYTHING
LIKE THAT.



.....

WHAT
DOES
THIS HAVE
TO DO
WITH THE
SOCIAL
WELFARE
AGENCY
?



LAZIO PROVINCE, FROSINONE

EXCUSE
ME,
YOU'RE
CAPTAIN
SANTIS,
CHIEF OF
THE LOCAL
POLICE,
CORRECT
?

I'D LIKE
TO TALK
ABOUT THE
ASSASSINA-
TION THAT
HAPPENED
LAST MONTH,
IF YOU
HAVE A
MOMENT...

A JOUR-
NALIST,
HM...?

AND
YOU
TWO
ARE?

DON'T
WASTE
YOUR
TIME ON
THIS.
REPORT
ON SOMETHING
ELSE.

PLEASE,
DON'T BE
SO HASTY.
I HAVE A
PHOTO-
GRAPH
I'D LIKE
TO SHOW
TO YOU.

THE
INVESTIGA-
TION INTO
THAT CASE
IS STILL
ONGOING.
I'M AFRAID
THERE ISN'T
ANYTHING
I CAN
TELL THE
MEDIA.

MY
NAME IS
LEONARDO
CONTI.
I WORK
FOR
ULTIMA
MAGAZINE.

RIGHT NOW, THE ACTUAL EVIDENCE COLLECTED STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT IT WAS A MAFIA HIT.



I'M SORRY, THIS PHOTOGRAPH IS ENTIRELY TOO BLURRY TO POINT TO ANYTHING DEFINITIVE.

IT WAS TAKEN BY A CITIZEN WHO WAS THERE WHEN IT HAPPENED ...



IS THERE SOMETHING GOING ON HERE THAT THE PUBLIC HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE AWARE OF?

HN?

IT WOULDN'T BE A PUBLIC ORGANIZATION, SIR. A SECRET AGENCY, IF YOU WILL.

THEN HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT A GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION THAT USES CHILDREN AS ASSASSINS, SIR?

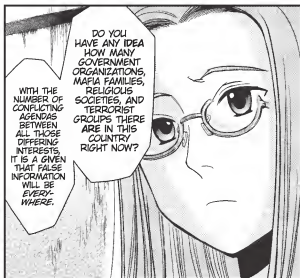


YOU TWO ARE UPSTANDING JOURNALISTS, YES?

I SUGGEST THAT YOU CONFINE YOUR REPORTING TO TOPICS OF RESPECTABLE CREDIBILITY.

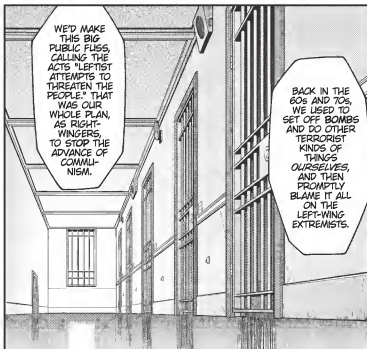
I'D THINK AGAIN, YOUNG LADY. USING KIDS AS KILLERS IS SOMETHING THAT TODAY'S MAFIA DOES WITHOUT BLINKING.

SO YOU THINK THIS WAS A GOVERNMENT CONSPIRACY, THEN?



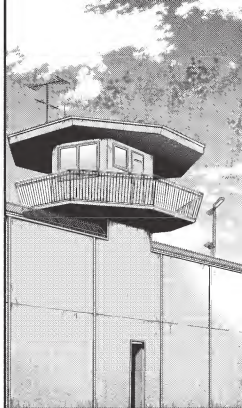
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, MAFIA FAMILIES, RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES, AND TERRORIST GROUPS THERE ARE IN THIS COUNTRY RIGHT NOW?

WITH THE NUMBER OF CONFLICTING AGENDAS BETWEEN ALL THOSE DIFFERING INTERESTS, IT IS A GIVEN THAT FALSE INFORMATION WILL BE EVERYWHERE.



WE'D MAKE
THIS BIG
PUBLIC FUSS,
CALLING THE
ACTS "LEFTIST
ATTEMPTS TO
THREATEN THE
PEOPLE." THAT
WAS OUR
WHOLE PLAN,
AS RIGHT-
WINGERS,
TO STOP THE
ADVANCE OF
COMMUNISM.

BACK IN THE
60'S AND 70'S,
WE USED TO
SET OFF BOMBS
AND DO OTHER
TERRORIST
KINDS OF
THINGS
OURSELVES,
AND THEN
PROMPTLY
BLAME IT ALL
ON THE
LEFT-WING
EXTREMISTS.



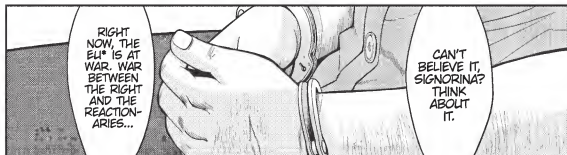
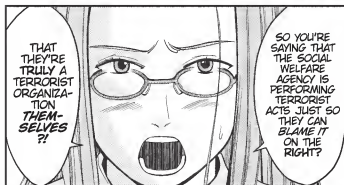
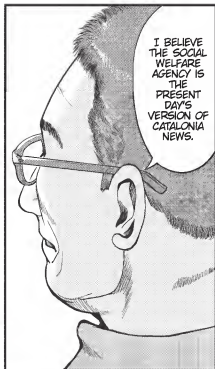
WE
HAD SOME
PRETTY BIG
SECRET
BACKERS. THE
GOVERNMENT,
AND AN
INTERNATIONAL
ANTI-
COMMUNIST
ORGANIZATION
POSING AS A
NEWSPAPER
COMPANY...



SO WHAT
DOES
"CATALONIA
NEWS"
HAVE TO
DO WITH
THE SOCIAL
WELFARE
AGENCY?

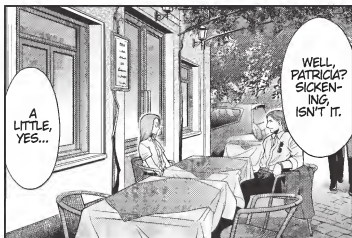
EXACTLY...
THEY WERE
A TACTICAL
GROUP
SECRETLY
WAGING WAR
AGAINST
COMMUNISM
ALL ACROSS
EUROPE,
EVEN THE CIA
AND NATO
BACKED
THEM.

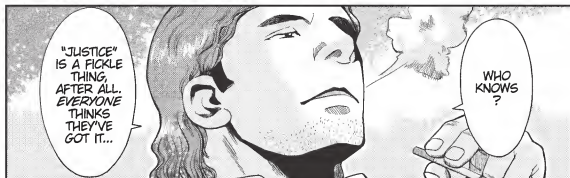
"CATALONIA
NEWS,"
RIGHT?
THE ONE
THAT USED
TO BE
BASED IN
BARCE-
LONA.



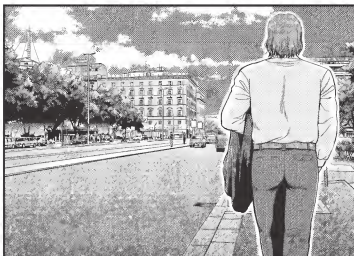
*EU = European Union



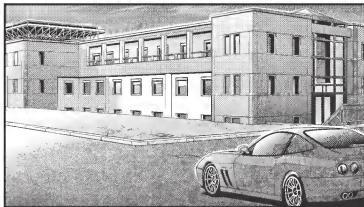
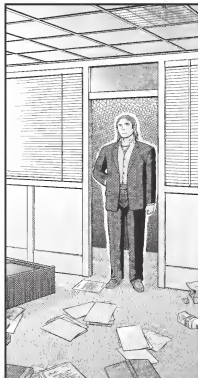


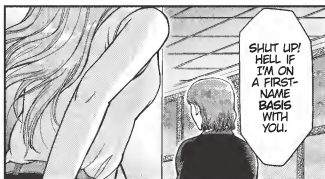
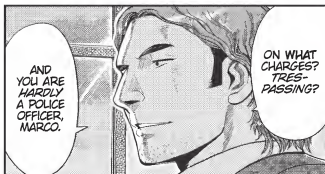


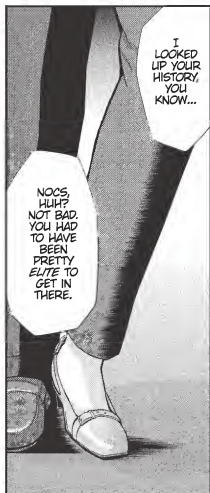
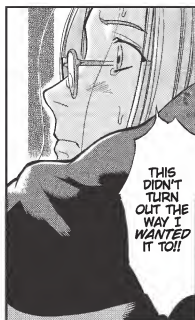
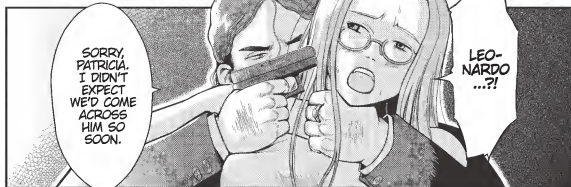


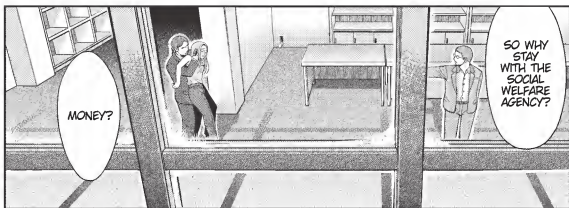


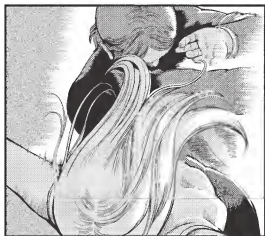
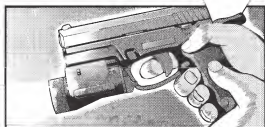
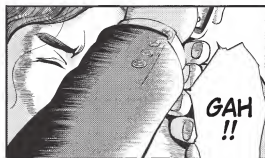


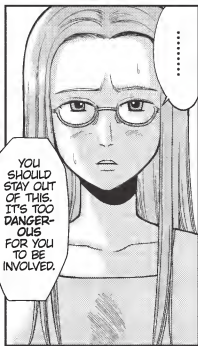
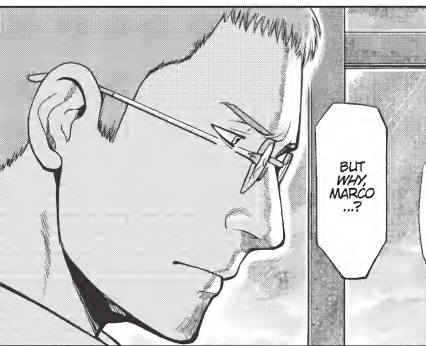


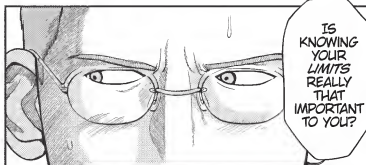




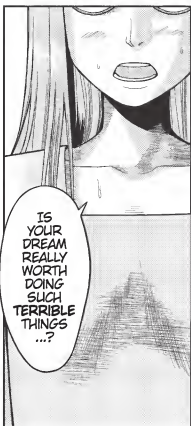








IS
KNOWING
YOUR
LIMITS
REALLY
THAT
IMPORTANT
TO YOU?



IS
YOUR
DREAM
REALLY
WORTH
DOING
SUCH
TERRIBLE
THINGS
...?



BELIEVE
ME.

LISTEN,
I DIDN'T
WANT
THINGS
TO TURN
OUT THIS
WAY
EITHER.



YEP!
THIS
ISN'T A
PUBLIC
ROAD,
SO IT'S
OKAY.

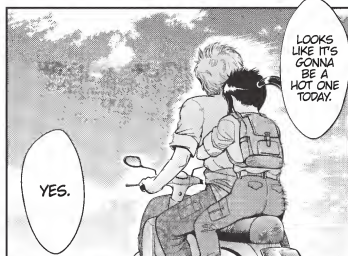
BREEN

ARE YOU
SURE YOU
SHOULDN'T
HAVE A
HELMET
ON?



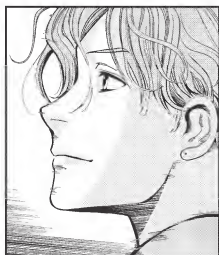
BREEN

ニ



YES.

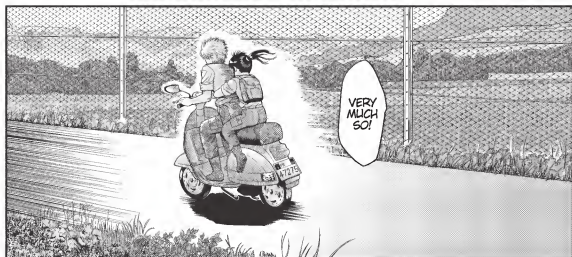
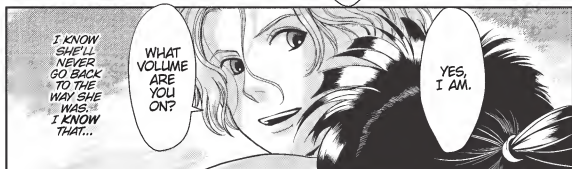
LOOKS
LIKE IT'S
GONNA
BE A
HOT ONE
TODAY.



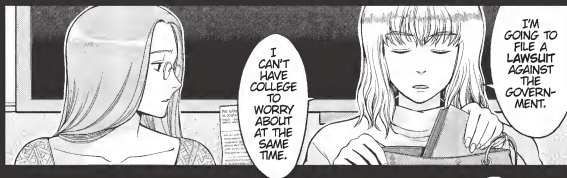
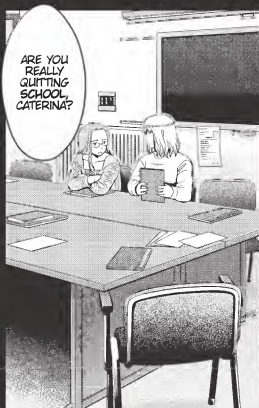
YES...
PRISILLA!

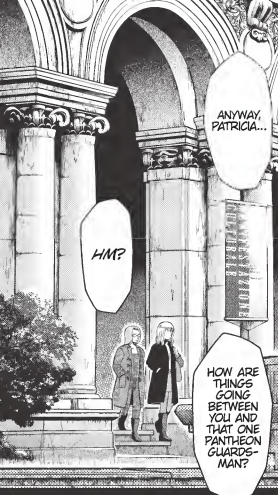
ASKING IF
SHE WANTS
ME TO TAKE
HER HOME
WHEN I
KNOW SHE
CAN'T REFUSE...

ANGIE,
HANG ON
A LITTLE
TIGHTER,
OKAY?!





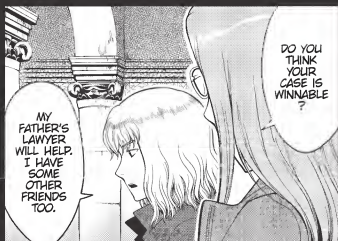




ANYWAY, PATRICIA...

HM?

HOW ARE THINGS GOING BETWEEN YOU AND THAT ONE PANTHEON GUARDS-MAN?

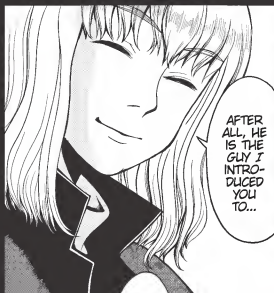


MY FATHER'S LAWYER WILL HELP. I HAVE SOME OTHER FRIENDS TOO.

DO YOU THINK YOUR CASE IS WINNABLE?

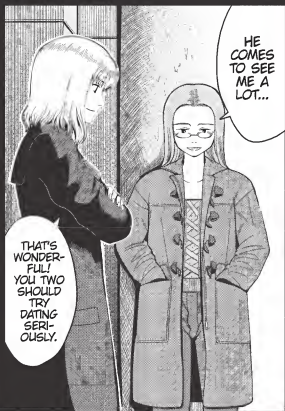


I WON'T LOSE.



AFTER ALL, HE IS THE GUY I INTRODUCED YOU TO...

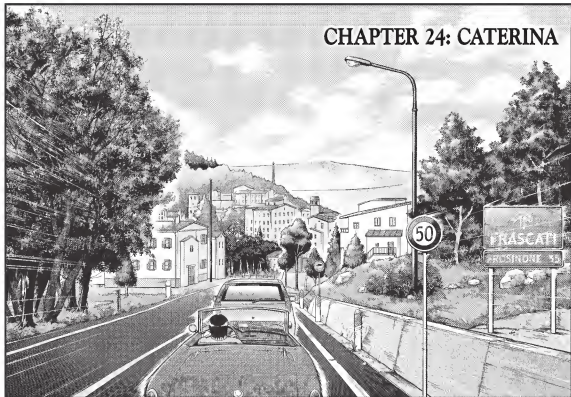
GO FOR IT.



HE COMES TO SEE ME A LOT...

THAT'S WONDERFUL! YOU TWO SHOULD TRY DATING SERIOUSLY.

CHAPTER 24: CATERINA



NAH...
I DON'T
NEED THEM.



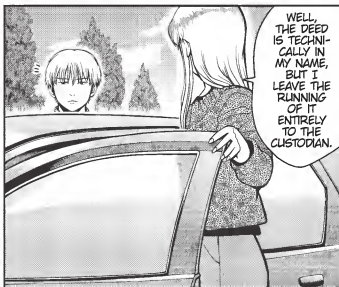
I'M
FINE.

HOW
IS YOUR
HAND
DOING,
PINOC-
CHIO?



ARE YOU
SURE
YOU DON'T
WANT
ANY PAIN-
KILLERS?

OH,
DON'T
PLAY
TOUGH.
IT HAS
TO
HURT
LIKE
MAD...





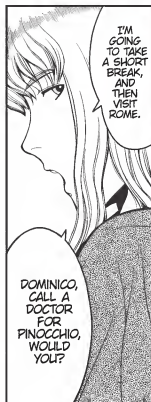
WE
WERE SO
SURPRISED
WHEN YOU
CALLED
US THE
OTHER
DAY!

DEAR
ME, YES!
HOW
MANY
YEARS
HAS IT
BEEN?

DOMINICO.
PAOLA.
IT'S BEEN
FOREVER...



THE
BLACK-
HAIR
ED MAN IS
FRANCO.
THE YOUNG
ONE IS
PINOCCHIO.



I'M
GOING TO
TAKE A
SHORT
BREAK,
AND THEN
VISIT
ROME.

DOMINICO,
CALL A
DOCTOR
FOR
PINOCCHIO,
WOULD
YOU?



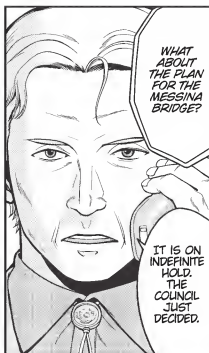
NICE
TO
MEET
YOU...

THANK
YOU SO
MUCH
FOR
TAKING
CARE
OF OUR
PADRONA.



OF
COURSE,
OF
COURSE!
YOU CAN
STAY AS
LONG
AS YOU
LIKE!

I'M
SORRY
FOR THE
SHORT
NOTICE,
BUT I'D
LIKE TO
STAY HERE
WITH SOME
FRIENDS
FOR A
TIME.



WHAT ABOUT THE PLAN FOR THE MESSINA BRIDGE?

IT IS ON INDEFINITE HOLD. THE COUNCIL JUST DECIDED.



THEY HAVE BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN UPSETTING OUR PLANS DURING THESE LAST FEW MONTHS.

THE ONES WHO ASSAULTED YOU IN MONTALCINO WERE LIKELY AGENTS OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE AGENCY.



THEY HAVE TRAINED SEVERAL INTO DECENTLY EFFECTIVE ASSASSINS.

BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL OF THE CHILDREN.



NOT ONE TO SIT STILL, IS SHE?

SHE WENT TO ROME TO CHECK OUT THE SITUATION THERE.

WHERE IS FRANCA?



YES... I'LL GET HIM.

IS PINOCCHIO THERE?

WE WILL...

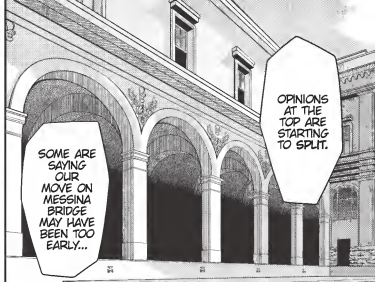
STILL, I SUGGEST YOU CURTAIL YOUR ACTIVITIES... THERE ARE PROBABLY WARRANTS OUT FOR YOU.





I
DON'T
LIKE
IT.

I
THOUGHT
YOU
WOULDN'T.



SOME ARE
SAYING
OUR
MOVE ON
MESSINA
BRIDGE
MAY HAVE
BEEN TOO
EARLY...

OPINIONS
AT THE
TOP ARE
STARTING
TO SPLIT.



AND IF
THAT
HAPPENS,
I'LL
PROBABLY
BE TOSSED
OUT ON
MY EAR.

NOT
JUST THIS
OPERATION,
BUT ALL
OUR BIG
ONES
COULD BE
PUT ON
TEMPORARY
HIATUS.



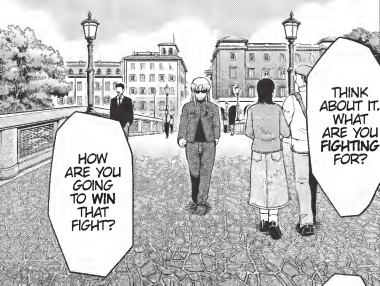
NEVER
EVEN
GAVE
SOME-
THING LIKE
THAT A
SECOND
THOUGHT,
WAY BACK
IN THE
DAY.

LIKE, IN
THE END,
IS THIS
ALL
REALLY
WORTH
DOING
WHAT WE
DO TO
PEOPLE?



I'VE
HIT MY
LIMIT
AS AN
ACTIVIST
...

THERE
ARE
DOUBTS
THAT I
JUST
CAN'T
SEEM TO
SHAKE.



HOW
ARE YOU
GOING TO
WIN
THAT
FIGHT?

THINK
ABOUT IT.
WHAT
ARE YOU
FIGHTING
FOR?



SO WHO
AND HOW
MANY DO
YOU HAVE
TO KILL TO
FULFILL
THAT
REVENGE
?

YOU
SAY IT IS
REVENGE
FOR
YOUR
FATHER...



YOU HAVE
GOTTEN WEAK,
THAT'S ALL!
YOU DON'T
HAVE THE
STOMACH FOR
THIS RIDE
ANYMORE,
AND NOW
YOU'RE
WANTING
OFF.

NINO...



BUT
YOU'LL
COME TO
UNDER-
STAND IT,
SOMEDAY...

THERE'S
ONLY SO
FAR
YOUTHFUL
PASSION
AND
ENTHUSIASM
WILL GET
YOU.



BUT ME...
I'M
NEVER
GETTING
OFF.



UNCLE
MARINOF...
WERE THE
CHARGES
AGAINST
MY
FATHER
FALSE?



HOWEVER,
THE
TRUTH IS
NOW
BURIED,
WHATEVER
IT MAY
HAVE
BEEN...

I BELIEVE
YOUR
FATHER WAS
NOT A MAN
TO INVOLVE
HIMSELF
IN THE
DARKER
EDGES OF
SOCIETY,
AS I DO.



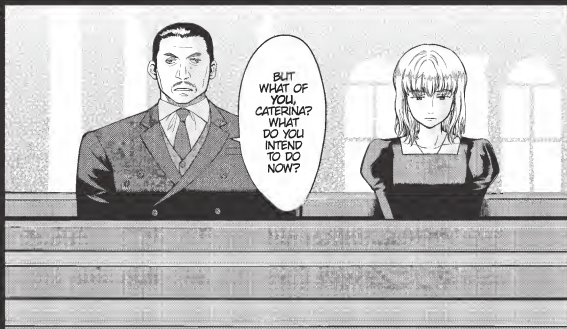
IF
HE GOT
HIMSELF
CALIGHT UP
IN THAT,
HE WAS
TRULY
UNFORTU-
NATE.

RIGHT
NOW, THIS
COUNTRY IS
A MESS.
WITH THE
POLITICAL
PURGES,
ANTI-GOV-
ERNMENT
PROTESTS,
AND
WHATNOT.

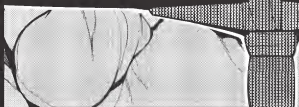
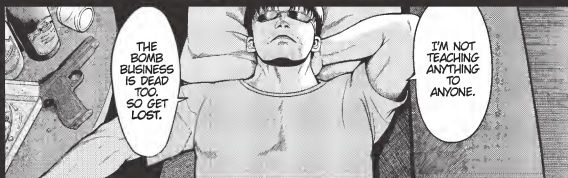


A PITY,
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO YOUR
FATHER,
CATERINA.

HE WAS
NOT THE
KIND OF
MAN WHO
DESERVED
TO BE
MURDERED
IN PRISON.



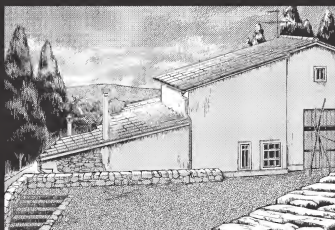
BUT
WHAT OF
YOU,
CATERINA?
WHAT
DO YOU
INTEND
TO DO
NOW?





YOU'RE
STILL
HERE?

WHAT
THE--?



STICK
AROUND
AND POUT
ALL YOU
WANT.
I'M NOT
CHANGING
MY
MIND.



.....



PEOPLE
WITH
POWER
HAVE A
DUTY TO
EXERCISE
THAT
POWER.



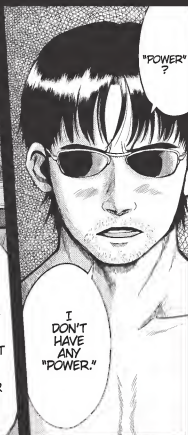
GRANDPA
SPECIALIZED
IN HARD-
TO-DISARM
DEVICES...
COMPLEX
ONES THAT
WENT OFF
ON VARIOUS
TIME
LIMITS.

THAT
STUFF'S
OLD-
FASHIONED.
NO ONE
WANTS
IT.



ANY
HALF-
WIT
CAN
BUILD
ONE OF
THOSE.

THE ONLY
THING
PEOPLE
NEED
NOWADAYS
IS SOME-
THING
QUICK THAT
THEY CAN
SET OFF
WITH THEIR
CELL
PHONES.



"POWER"
?

I
DON'T
HAVE
ANY
"POWER."

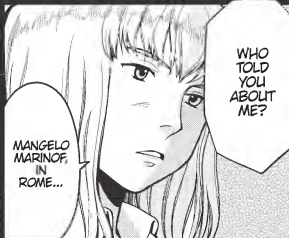


MARINOF,
HUH?

YOU
PROBABLY
THOUGHT
YOU'D GET
TRAINING AS
AN ACTIVIST,
BUT WHAT
YOU GOT
WAS PAWNED
OFF ON A
DEAD END.



.....



WHO
TOLD
YOU
ABOUT
ME?

MANGELO
MARINOF,
IN
ROME...



SO
WHAT'S
YOUR
GRAND
CAUSE,
HM?

WHAT
COULD AN
ORDINARY
LITTLE
GIRL LIKE
YOU WANT
WITH
BOMBS
?!



AGAINST
THE
GOVERN-
MENT?

SO
YOU'RE
LOOKING
FOR
REVENGE
THEN,
LITTLE
GIRL?



I'M
GOING TO
CHANGE
THIS
SCREWED-
UP
WORLD!



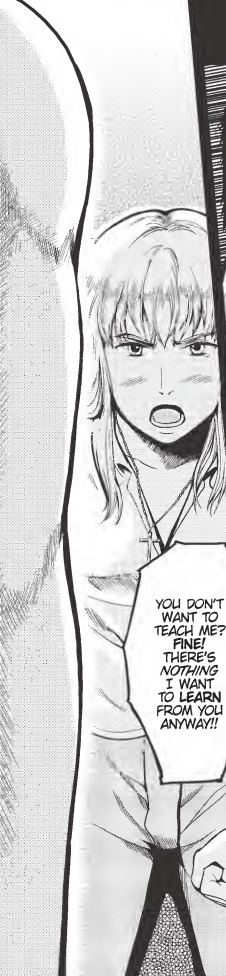
SO
BECOME
A NINJ.

!



MY
FATHER
WAS
INCAR-
CERATED
ON FALSE
CHARGES.

I FILED A
LAWSUIT TO
FREE HIM,
BUT HE WAS
KILLED IN A
SUSPICIOUS
ACCIDENT IN
PRISON!



YOU DON'T
WANT TO
TEACH ME?
FINE!
THERE'S
NOTHING
I WANT
TO LEARN
FROM YOU
ANYWAY!!

HOW
DARE YOU
LECTURE
ME LIKE
YOU KNOW
EVERYTHING,
WHEN ALL
YOU DO
IS SIT
AROUND
AND
DRINK!



KEEP YOUR
FILTHY
PAWS OFF
OF ME,
YOU
DRUNKARD
!!





I MUST SAY, I NEVER DREAMED THAT SHY LITTLE GIRL WOULD BECOME SUCH A SKILLED ACTIVIST.



CATERINA. I HEAR A LOT ABOUT YOU THESE DAYS.

IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, UNCLE MARINOF.



I COULD NEVER DIG UP ANYTHING ...

NO...

DID YOU EVER LEARN ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FATHER?



THE MILAN GROUP HAS HAD SOME PRETTY GLARING FAILURES RECENTLY. OTHER FACTIONS ARE MOVING IN TO SNATCH UP WHAT INFLUENCE THEY CAN.

THERE'S A POWER STRUGGLE BREWING BETWEEN THE NORTHERN BRANCHES.

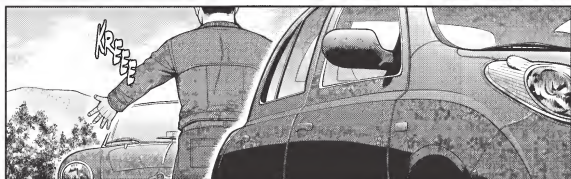
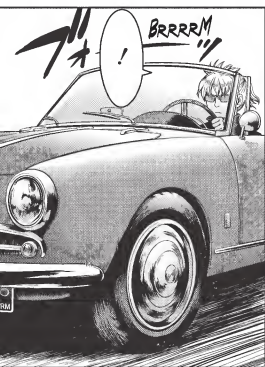
I'D BE CAREFUL, IF I WERE YOU.

PITY. SO YOU WORK WITH MILAN'S CRISTIANO NOW, YES?

YES.

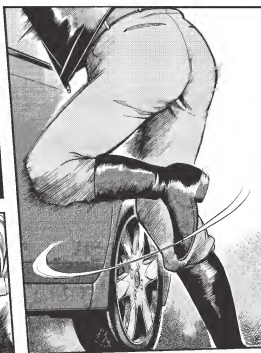


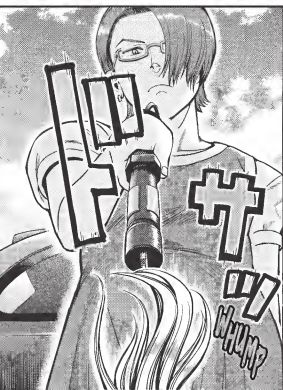


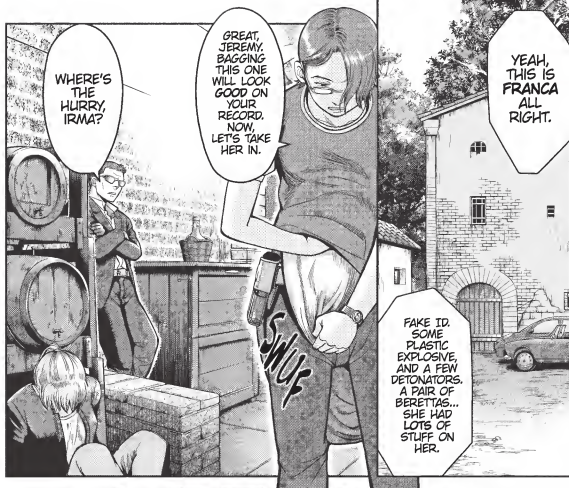




I'LL
TAKE
HER IN
MY CAR.
HELP ME
GET HER
OUT,
AND--







WHERE'S
THE
HURRY,
IRMA?

GREAT,
JEREMY.
BAGGING
THIS ONE
WILL LOOK
GOOD ON
YOUR
RECORD.
NOW,
LET'S TAKE
HER IN.

YEAH,
THIS IS
FRANCA
ALL
RIGHT.

FAKE ID.
SOME
PLASTIC
EXPLOSIVE,
AND A FEW
DETONATORS.
A PAIR OF
BERETTAS...
SHE HAD
LOTS OF
STUFF ON
HER.



BUT I AM
GOING TO
SEND AN
EMAIL OFF
TO CHIEF
DRAGHI.

WHAT-
EVER.
DO WHAT
YOU
WANT...



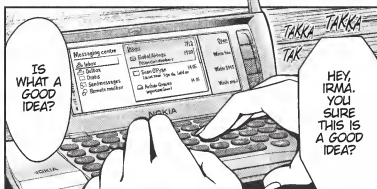
ROGER!

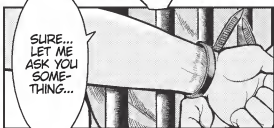
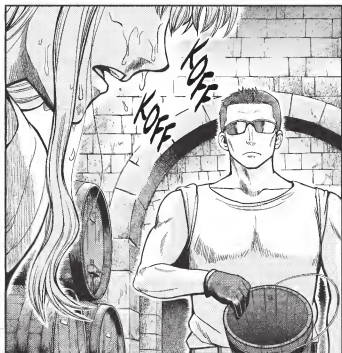
MATTHIAS!
GRAB
ALL THE
STUFF WE
CONFIS-
CATED OFF
OF HER,
AND BRING
IT UP
HERE!

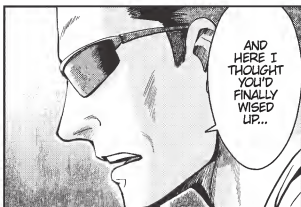


THE
SECOND WE
GET HER
TO HQ,
PUBLIC
SAFETY'S
GONNA
SWOOP IN
AND SWIPE
HER AWAY
IN A
HEART-
BEAT!

I WANT
TO PUMP
WHAT
INFORMA-
TION I
CAN OUT
OF HER
FIRST.

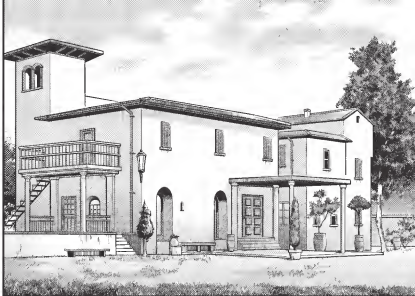








HOW'S
THE
WRIST?



GOOD.
GET
IN THE
CAR.

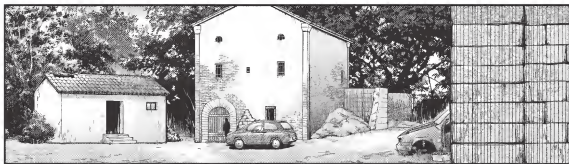


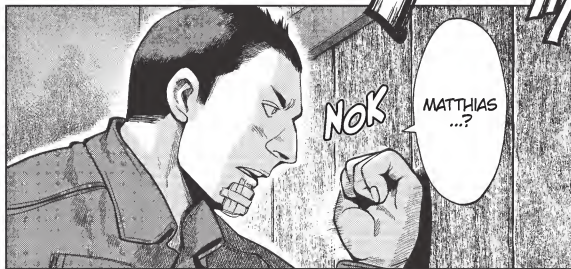
BUT
YOU CAN
STILL USE
A BLADE
WITH
YOUR
LEFT?

DUH.
OF
COURSE.

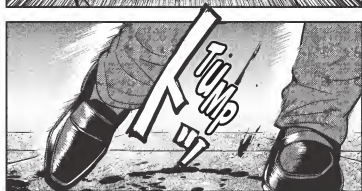
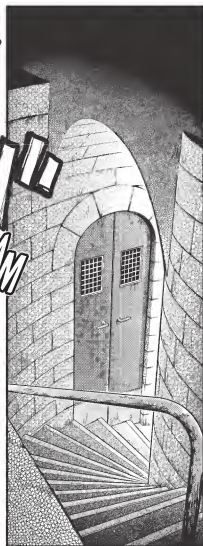


CAN'T
YOU TELL
JUST BY
LOOKING?





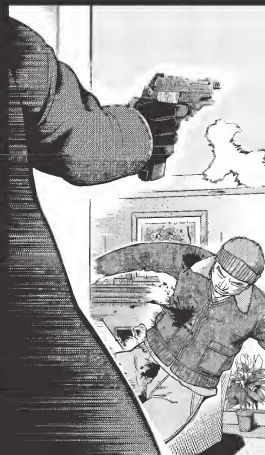
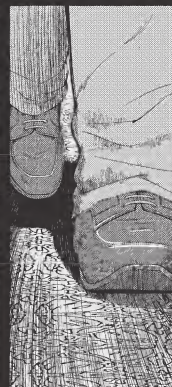




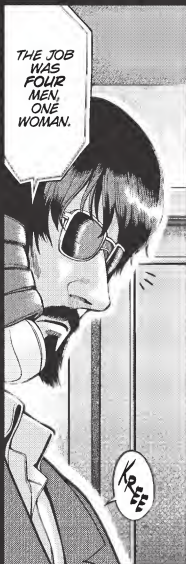
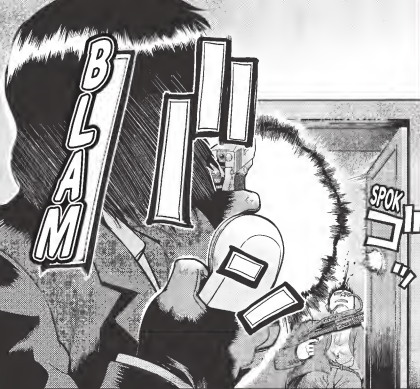


GUNSLINGERGIRL.











YOU
DO GOOD
WORK,
CRISTIANO.
ALWAYS
PROMPT AND
PRECISE.
I WILL BE
CALLING YOU
AGAIN.

THANK
YOU,
SIR.



THE
POLACCO
FAMILY
HAS BEEN
ELIMINATED,
AS PER
YOUR
REQUEST.

HELLO?
THIS IS
CRISTIANO,
SIR.



THIS
WRAPS
UP THE
SITUATION
QUITE
NICELY.

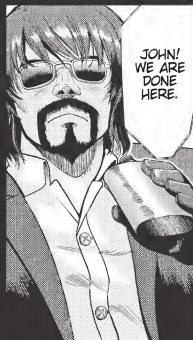
EXCELLENT.
WE TRACKED
DOWN
POLACCO'S
WIFE IN
SWITZER-
LAND. SHE
CONFERRED
TO EVERY-
THING.



YOU
KNOW, I'D
DOUBLE
YOUR PAY
IF YOU
WOULD
STOP
DRINKING
...

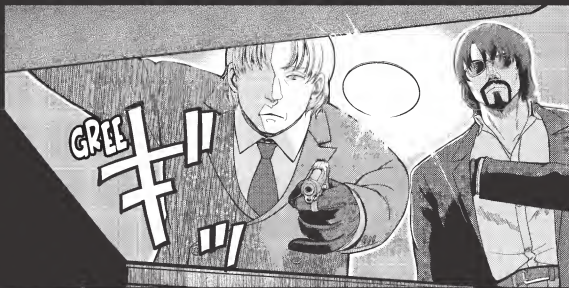
NO
CAN DO
THERE,
MAN.

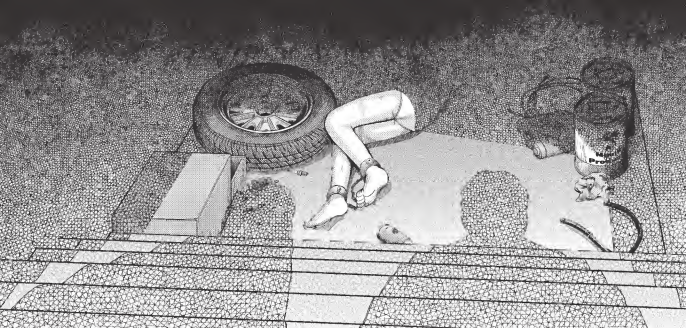
PSY



JOHN!
WE ARE
DONE
HERE.







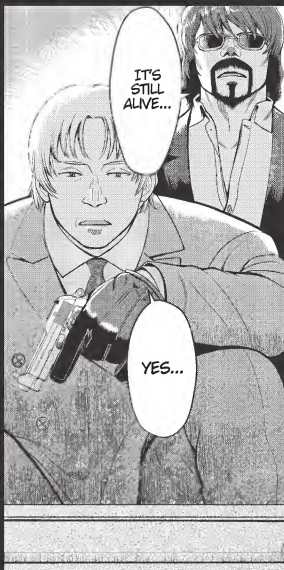
WAIT!

SO WAS IT
REALLY
"FIVE"
GUYS,
THEN?



IT
MUST BE
A SLAVE.
ONE HE
OWNED
OR WAS
INTENDING
TO
SELL...

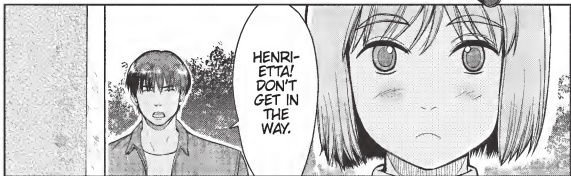
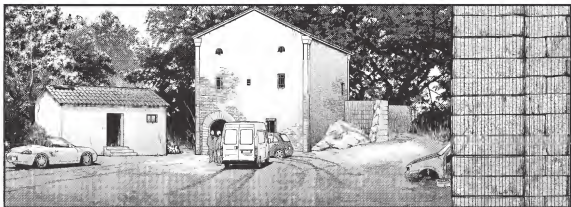
THE
POLACCO
FAMILY
DIDN'T
HAVE A
CHILD THIS
AGE.

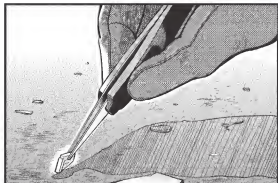


IT'S
STILL
ALIVE...

YES...







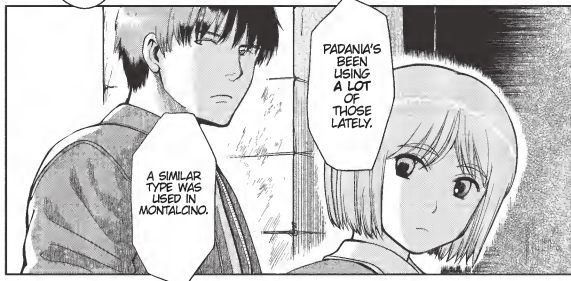
HIV.
A CELL
PHONE
BATTERY.

PROBABLY
IMPROVISED
A BOMB BY
STUFFING A
CELL PHONE
FULL OF
SEMTEX.



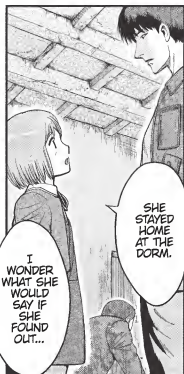
SECTION 1
HASN'T
FINISHED
THEIR
INSPECTION
OF THE
AREA YET.

YES,
SIR.



PADANIA'S
BEEN
USING
A LOT
OF
THOSE
LATELY.

A SIMILAR
TYPE WAS
USED IN
MONTALCINO.



I
WONDER
WHAT SHE
WOULD
SAY IF
SHE
FOUND
OUT...

SHE
STAYED
HOME
AT THE
DORM.



WHERE IS
TRIELA
TODAY,
ANYWAY?



SIGNORE
JOSE,
WASN'T
MONTALCINO
WHERE
THAT
HAPPENED
?

YES.
THAT
MAKES IT
LIKELY THAT
WHOEVER
DID THIS
WAS THE
SAME
TERRORIST
THAT
HILSHIRE
AND TRIELA
FOUGHT.



HEY...

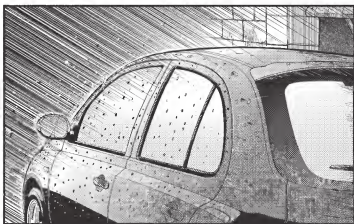
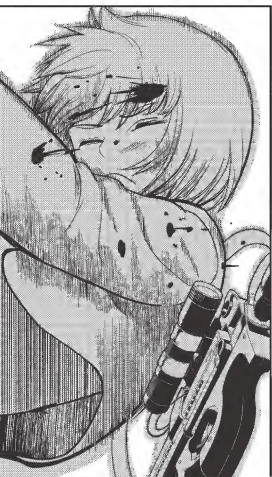
GO GET A
STRETCHER,
WOULD
YOU?



HEY,
YOU DONE
PHOTO-
GRAPHING
IRMA'S
BODY
YET?

YEAH.
YOU CAN
MOVE
HER
NOW.









OH,
THAT'S
GOOD...



IT SEEMS
THE BRICK
WALL OF
THIS
BUILDING
MADE A
PERFECT
SHIELD.



NOW,
SHOW
ME THE
HAND
YOU'RE
HIDING.

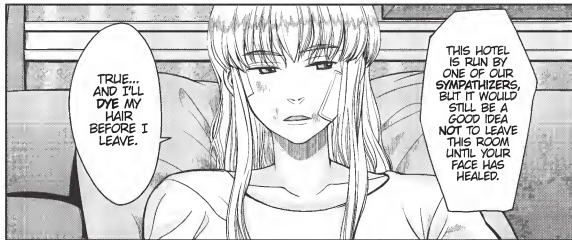
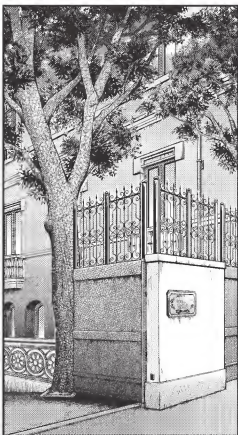
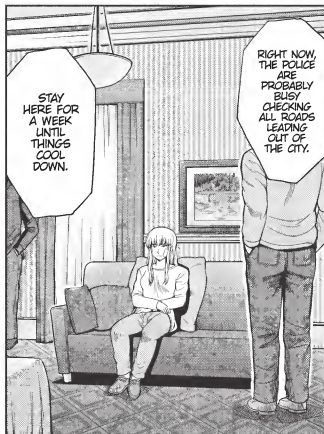


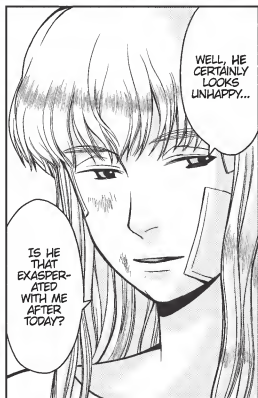
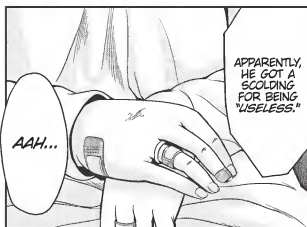
I'M NOT
SURPRISED
THOSE
BASTARDS
WOULD
RESORT TO
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.

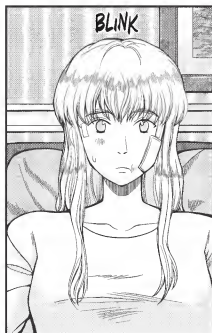


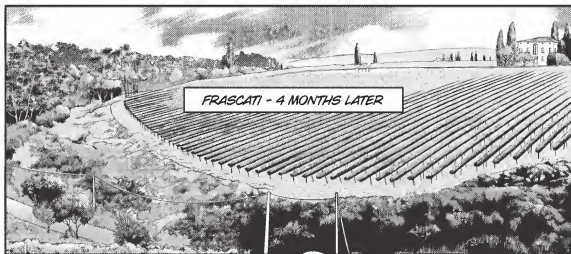
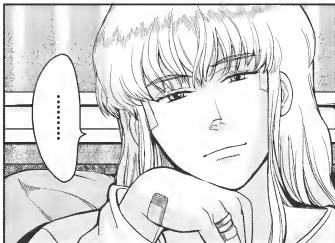
A VERY
CRUEL
AND
NASTY
TRAP
USING
CORPSES.

SO
WHAT
WAS
THAT?
IT CAME
OUT OF
NOWHERE
...



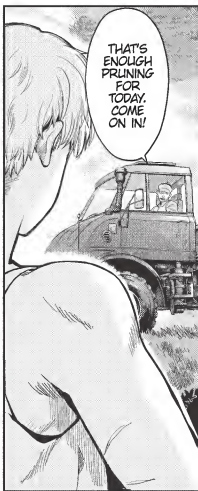






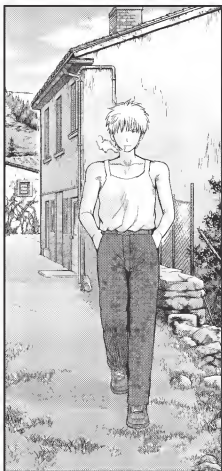


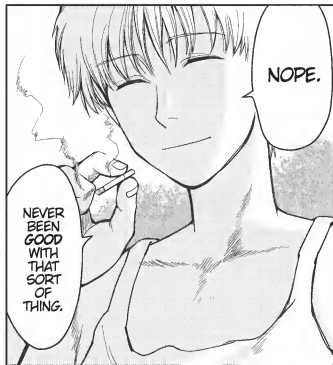
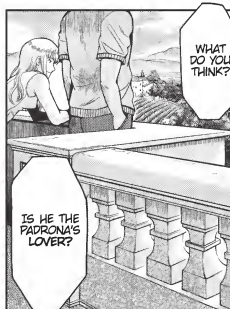
YOU'VE
ONLY BEEN
HERE FOR
A SHORT
BIT, BUT
YOU'VE
GROWN
INTO QUITE
THE
FARMER!

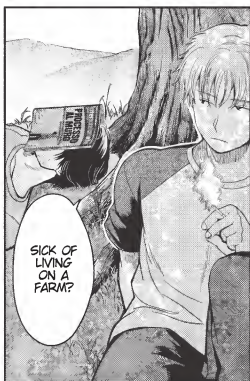
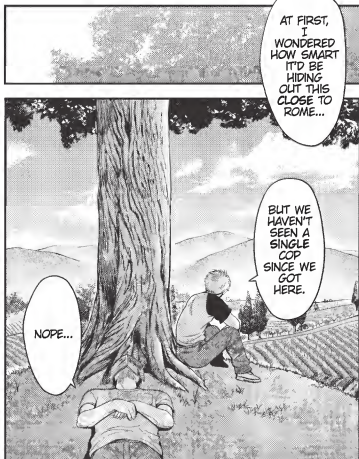
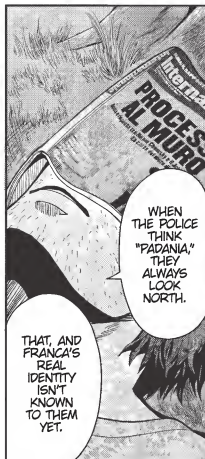


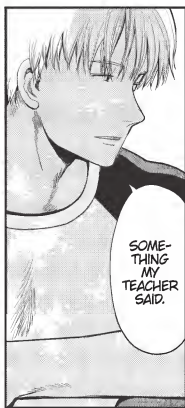
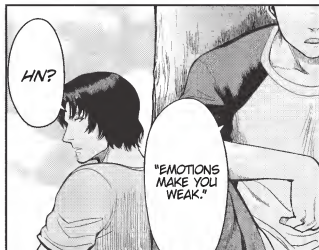
THE
PADRONA
SAYS YOU'RE
A TOP-RATE
ASSASSIN,
BUT
BETWEEN
YOU AND ME,
I THINK
YOU'D MAKE
A GREAT
WINE
MAKER.

OH
YEAH?











I DON'T
THINK I
EVER SAW
HIM SOBER,
BUT HE
WAS
INCREDIBLE
WITH
KNIVES AND
GUNS.



GUYS
THAT
CAN'T
GET THAT
CRAP
OUTTA
THEIR
HEADS
ARE
WEAK.

IF
YOU'RE
GONNA
BE AN
ASSASSIN,
YOU'VE
GOTTA GET
RID OF ALL
THOSE
PEESKY
EMOTIONS.



PEOPLE
JUST
CALLED
HIM
"JOHN
DOE."

HE
SAID HE
USED TO
BE
A CIA
SPY...



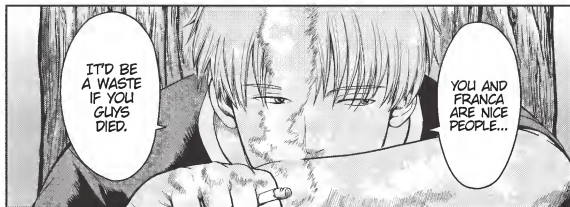
HE
WENT
DOWN
PRETTY
EASY.

BUT
DESPITE
ALL
THAT...



GOT
SHOT
AND
KILLED
DURING
SOME
RANDOM
FIGHT.

THINK OF
OTHER
PEOPLE AS
GARBAGE!



IT'D BE
A WASTE
IF YOU
GUYS
DIED.

YOU AND
FRANCA
ARE NICE
PEOPLE...



SO
WHAT
CAN I
DO?

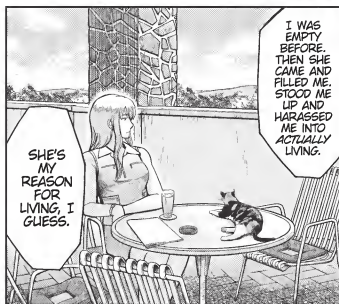


NO.

IS
FRANCA
YOUR
LOVER?



DON'T
ASK
ME.



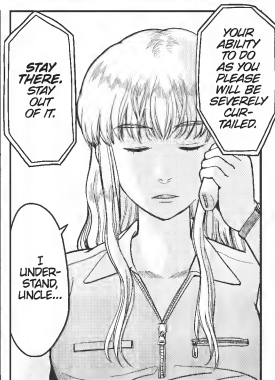
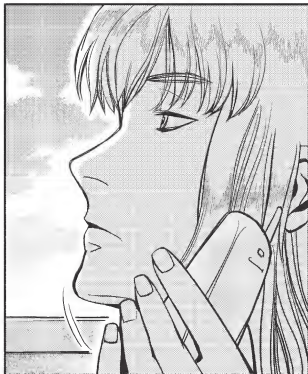
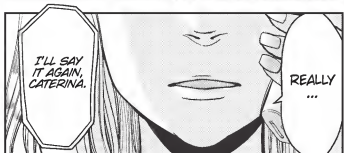
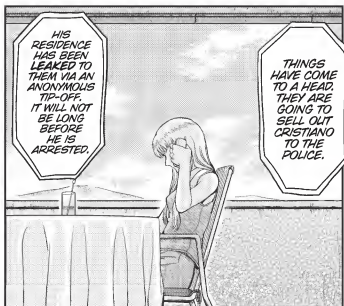
SHE'S
MY
REASON
FOR
LIVING, I
GUESS.

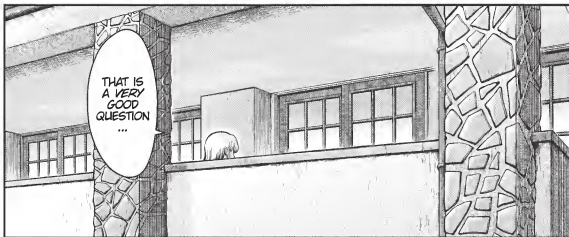
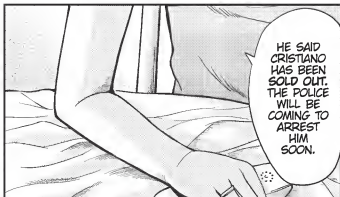
I WAS
EMPTY
BEFORE.
THEN SHE
CAME AND
FILLED ME.
STOOD ME
UP AND
HARASSED
ME INTO
ACTUALLY
LIVING.

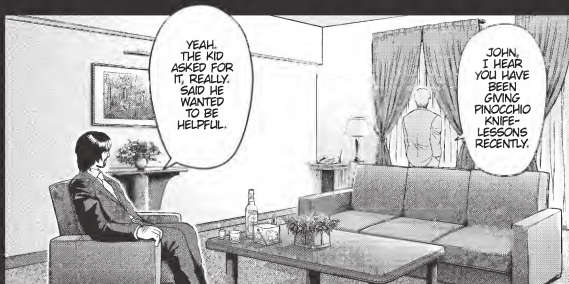
BUT
YOU'RE
THE ONE
WITH THE
CLEAREST
HEAD.

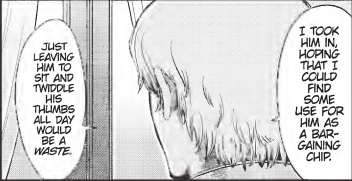












JUST LEAVING HIM TO SIT AND TWIDDLE HIS THUMBS ALL DAY WOULD BE A WASTE.

I TOOK HIM IN, HOPING THAT I COULD FIND SOME USE FOR HIM AS A BARGAINING CHIP.



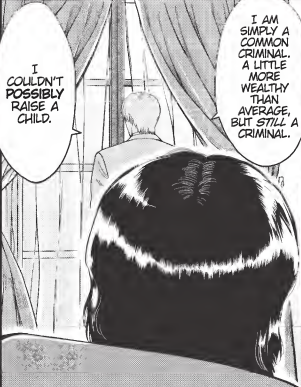
MAN, IF YOU HONESTLY ONLY GRABBED HIM JUST TO TOSS HIM BACK AS BAIT, YOU'D NEVER HAVE GIVEN HIM A NAME OR STARTED TEACHING HIM TO READ AND WRITE.

"BARGAINING CHIP"? YOU SERIOUS?



NO, NO. YOU MIGHT AS WELL CONTINUE ...

YOU WANT ME TO STOP?



I COULDN'T POSSIBLY RAISE A CHILD.

I AM SIMPLY A COMMON CRIMINAL. A LITTLE MORE WEALTHY THAN AVERAGE, BUT STILL A CRIMINAL.

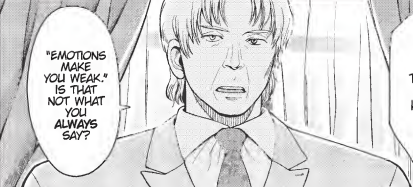


IT'S THE SAME THING TO YOU AS IT IS TO ME. ADMIT IT.



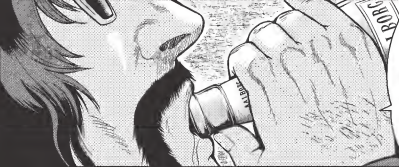
A BOSS
FOR HIS
LACKEYS.
A MAN
FOR HIS
TOOLS.

THERE
ARE MORE
WAYS OF
EXPRESSING
AFFECTION
OUT THERE
THAN JUST
THAT OF A
DAD FOR
HIS KID.



"EMOTIONS
MAKE
YOU WEAK."
IS THAT
NOT WHAT
YOU
ALWAYS
SAY?

EVEN
A GUY
TEACHIN'
A KID
HOW TO
KILL.



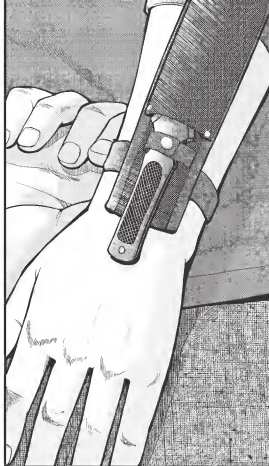
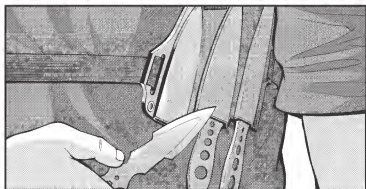
YEAH,
IT WAS.
GUESS
I'M JUST
GETTIN'
OLD AND
SENILE.



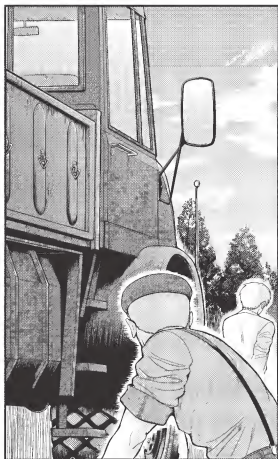
PERHAPS.
STILL, IT
COULD BE
AMUSING
TO TRY.

GUNSLINGERGIRL.





CHAPTER 26: PINOCCHIO (5)

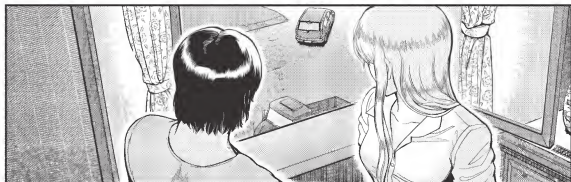


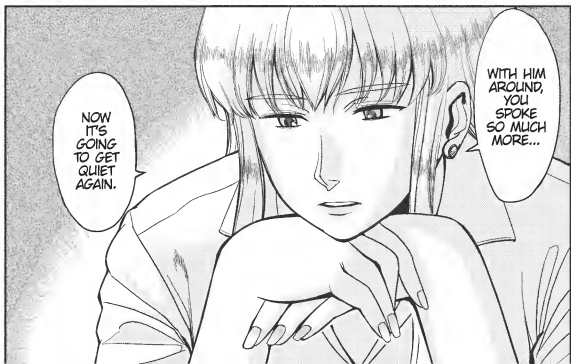


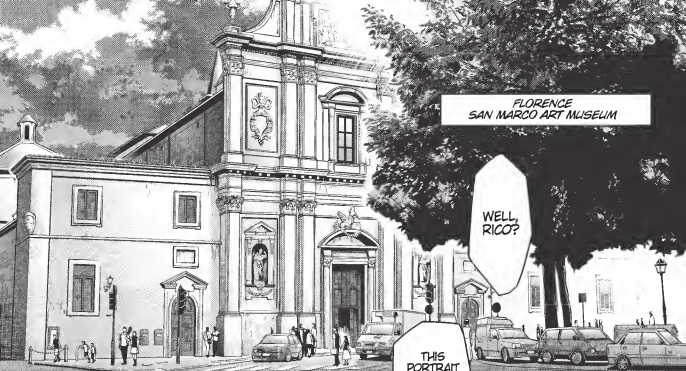
SURE
...



COME ON BACK, IF YOU EVER GET A CHANCE!







FLORENCE
SAN MARCO ART MUSEUM

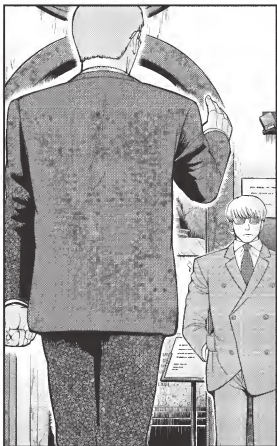
WELL,
RICO?

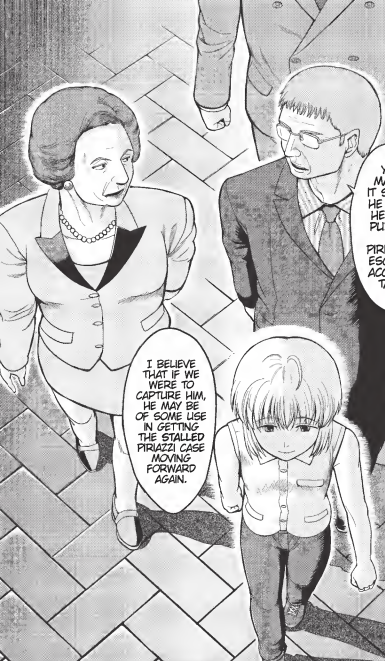
THIS
PORTRAIT
IS OF THE
MONK
WHO LIVED
IN THIS
ROOM FIVE
HUNDRED
YEARS
AGO.

.....



HE
SURE IS
WEARING
A FUNNY
KERCHIEF
ON HIS
HEAD.

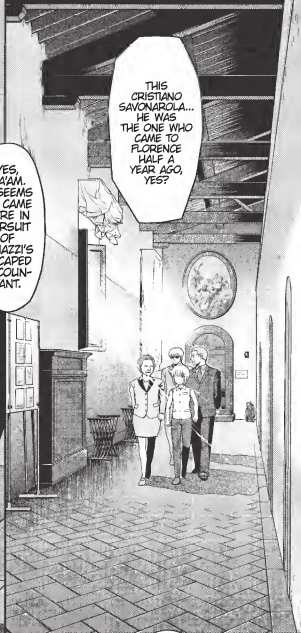




I BELIEVE
THAT IF WE
WERE TO
CAPTURE HIM,
HE MAY BE
OF SOME USE
IN GETTING
THE STALLED
PIRAZZI CASE
MOVING
FORWARD
AGAIN.

YES,
MA'AM.
IT SEEMS
HE CAME
HERE IN
PURSUIT
OF
PIRAZZI'S
ESCAPED
ACQUIN-
TANT.

THIS
CRISTIANO
SAVONAROLA...
HE WAS
THE ONE WHO
CAME TO
FLORENCE
HALF A
YEAR AGO,
YES?



YOU
HAVE MY
PERMIS-
SION.

MAY WE
BRING
HIM IN?



THE SECURITY CAMERAS AT THE LUFFZI HAVE A FEW SHOTS OF HIM. I WILL HAVE A PICTURE PRODUCED WITHIN THE DAY.

DO WE HAVE AN ACCURATE PHOTOGRAPH OF HIS LIKENESS?



I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING HIM.

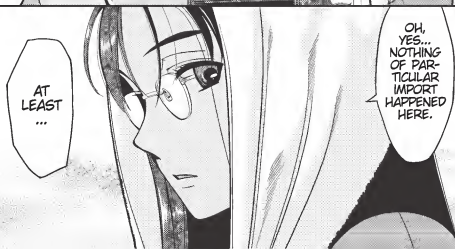


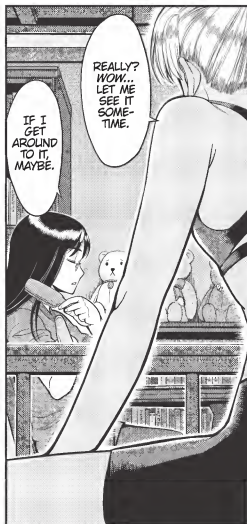
PUBLIC SAFETY DOES NOT HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE CRIMINAL RECORD FOR THIS MAN...

BUT HE DOES SEEM TO HAVE AN APPRECIATION FOR FINE ART.



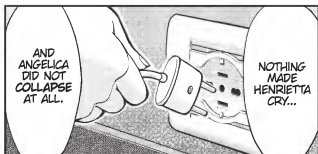
MAKE ALL EFFORTS TO BRING HIM IN ALIVE.





IF I GET AROUND TO IT, MAYBE.

REALLY? WOW... LET ME SEE IT SOME-TIME.



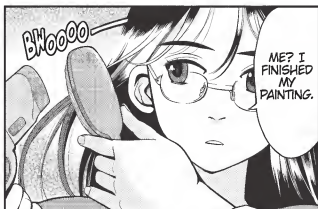
AND ANGELICA DID NOT COLLAPSE AT ALL.

NOTHING MADE HENRIETTA CRY...



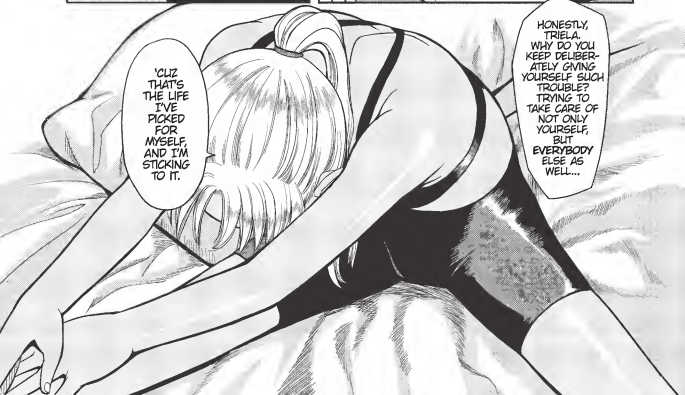
SO WHAT ABOUT YOU, CLAES?

AAH, THAT'S GOOD...



BWOOOO

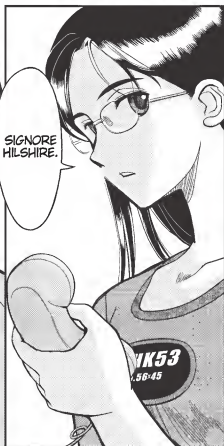
ME? I FINISHED MY PAINTING.

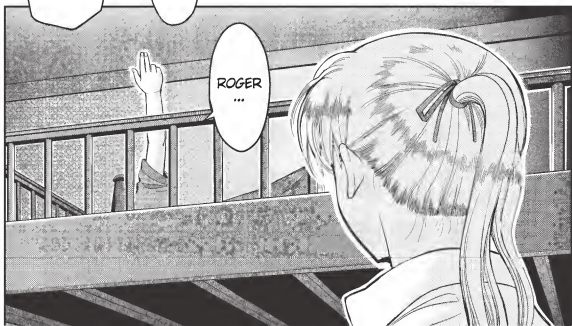


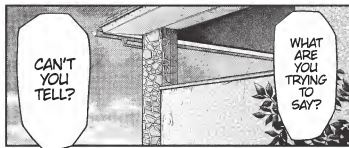
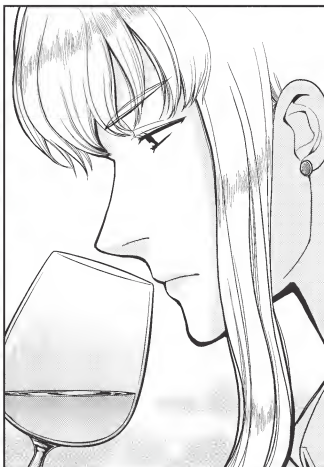
'CUZ THAT'S THE LIFE I'VE PICKED FOR MYSELF, AND I'M STICKING TO IT.

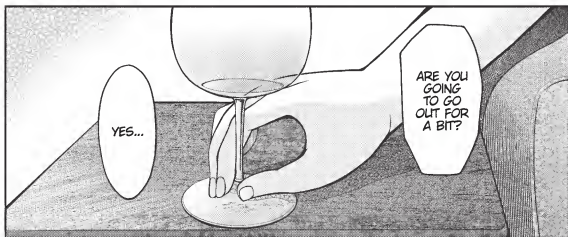
HONESTLY, TRIELA. WHY DO YOU KEEP DELIBERATELY GIVING YOURSELF SUCH TROUBLE? TRYING TO TAKE CARE OF NOT ONLY YOURSELF, BUT EVERYBODY ELSE AS WELL...

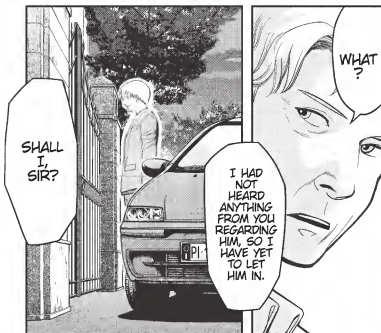
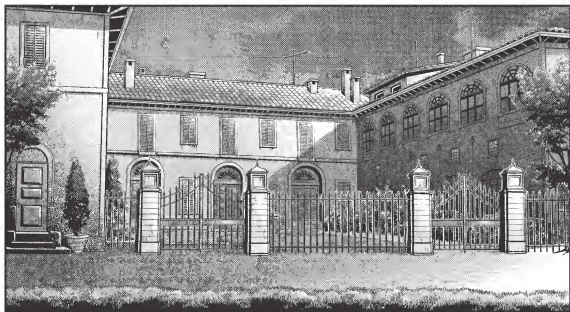
BRIING
トケルルル





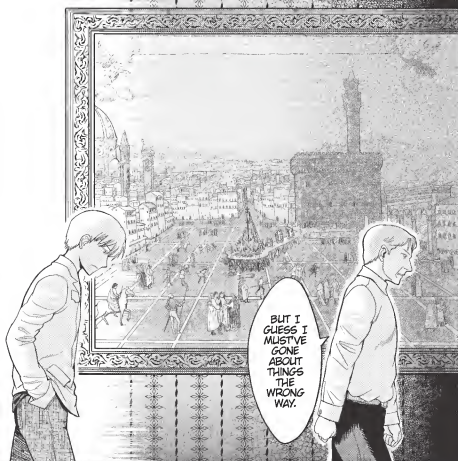














YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO
FREED
ME FROM
THAT
BASE-
MENT!

YOU
SAVED
MY
LIFE!

YOU
GAVE
ME A
NAME,
TAUGHT
ME,
RAISED
ME!!

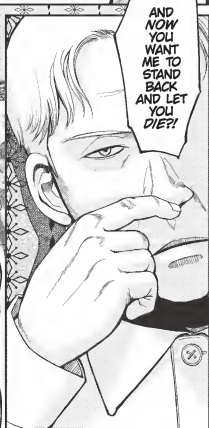


OKAY,
IF YOU
WON'T
LEAVE...

.....



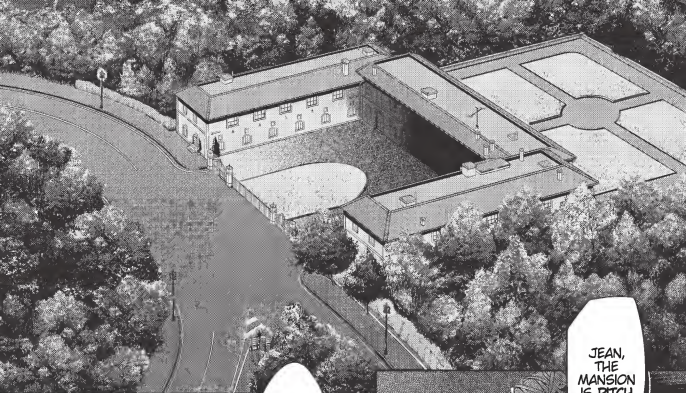
THEN
I'M GOING
TO KILL
EVERYONE
WHO
COMES
INTO THIS
HOUSE.



AND
NOW
YOU
WANT
ME TO
STAND
BACK
AND LET
YOU
DIE?!

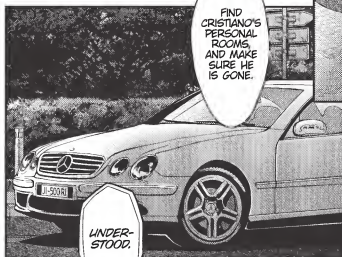






JEAN,
THE
MANSION
IS PITCH
BLACK.

FIND
CRISTIANO'S
PERSONAL
ROOMS.
AND MAKE
SURE HE
IS GONE.



LINDER-
STOOD.

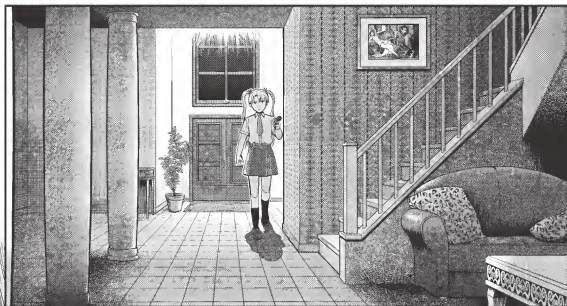
I
DON'T
SEE ANY
SIGNS OF
ANYONE
INSIDE IT,
EITHER.
WHAT
SHALL
WE DO?

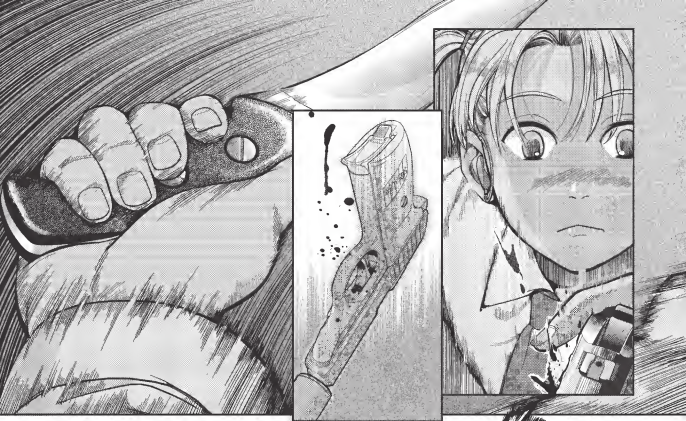


CONFIRM
IF ANY
VEHICLES
ARE
MISSING,
AND
REJOIN
US FROM
THE
SOUTH.

RICO,
YOU
CHECK
THE
GARAGE.









PINOC-
CHIO!





SO
YOU'RE
THE ONE
THEY
SENT TO
ARREST
UNCLE?

HUH.
THE GIRL
FROM
MONTAL-
CINO...



I
KNEW I
SHOULD
HAVE
KILLED
YOU
WHEN I
HAD THE
CHANCE
...



WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?

CAN I
TAKE
HIM BY
MYSELF
...?



JUST
TRY
IT,
PAL!

SHING



THIS
ISN'T
MONTAL-
CINO.
THIS IS
DIFFER-
ENT.

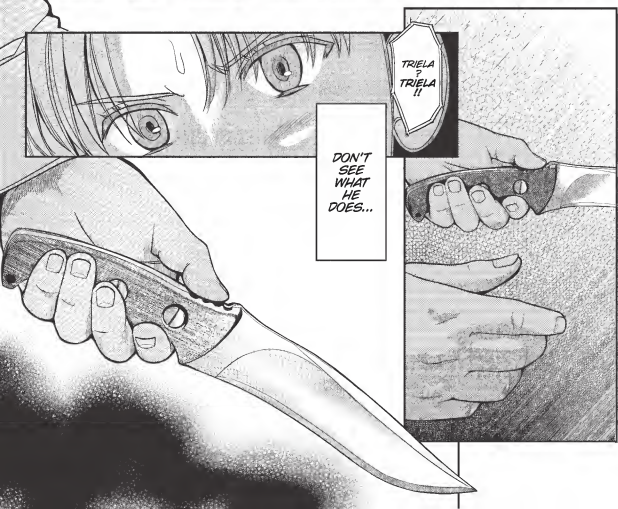
TRIELA!
WHAT'S
HAPPEN-
ING?!

STAY
CALM...



WHAT
?!

IT'S
PINOC-
CHIO!!



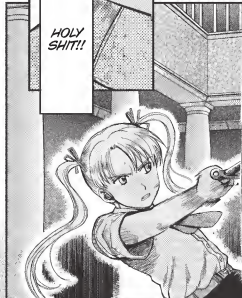
TRIELA
?
TRIELA
!!

DON'T
SEE
WHAT
HE
DOES...





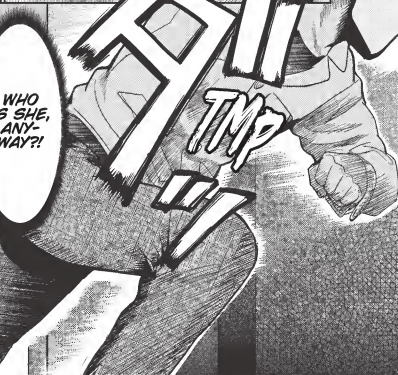
HOLY
SHIT!!

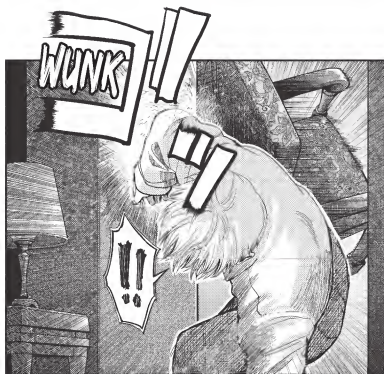


SHE'S
STRONG
!



WHO
IS SHE,
ANY-
WAY?!



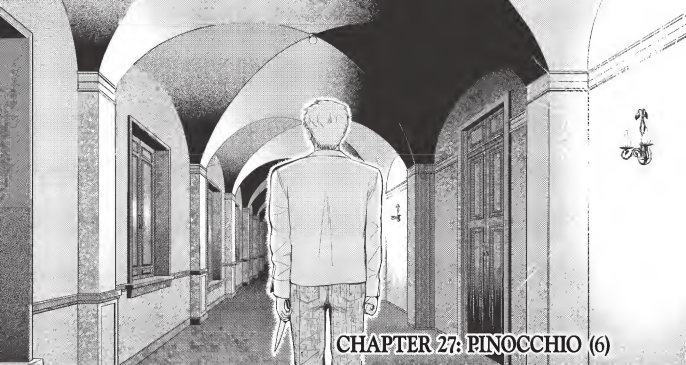






GUNSLINGERGIRL.







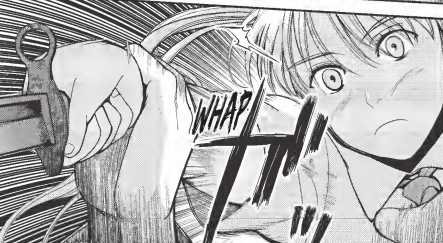


YOU
MONSTER
!!



DAMMIT!
WHY
CAN'T
I HIT
HIM?!

HOLD
STILL,
YOU
...!



CRASH
#



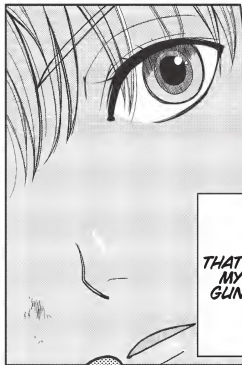
WHUD!

SKSHHH

BANG

BANG

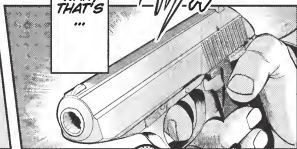
KOFF



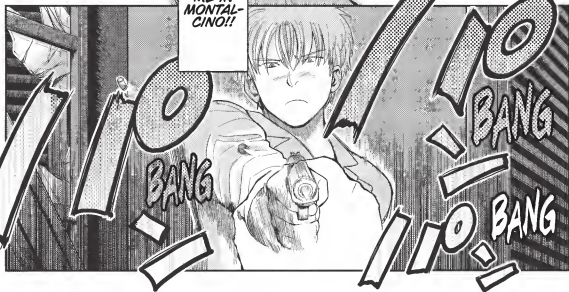
THAT'S
MY
GUN!

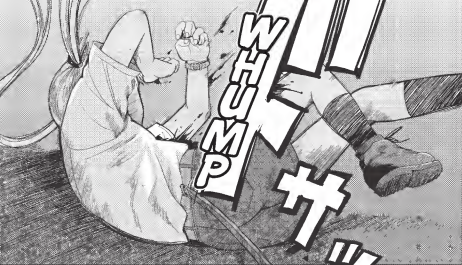


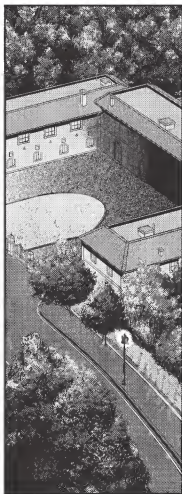
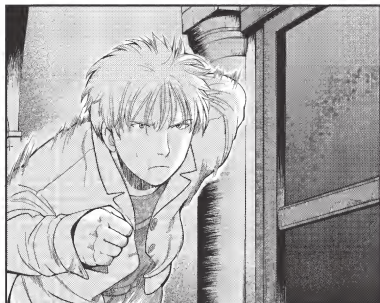
WAIT,
THAT'S
...



THE
ONE HE
STOLE
FROM
ME IN
MONTAL-
CINO!!









WHY
ARE YOU
DOING
THIS? WHAT
REASON
COULD YOU
POSSIBLY
HAVE TO
KEEP
FIGHTING
?!

TMp



I
HAVE
TO
FIGHT
!!

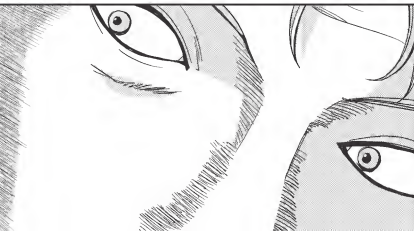
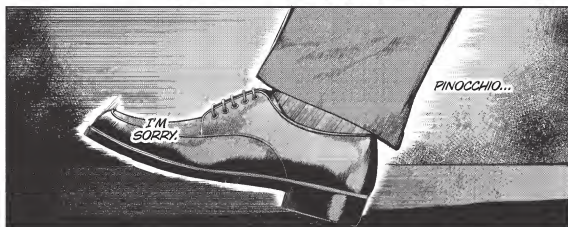
YOU'D
NEVER
UNDER-
STAND!

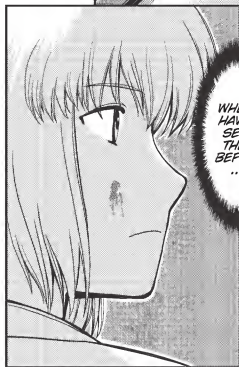


AND YOU
CALLED
ME A
MONSTER
...

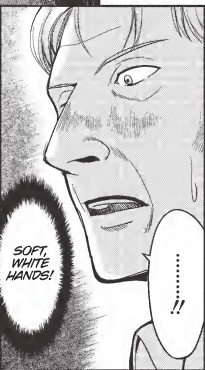


HUINH.
JUST
LIKE
ME...





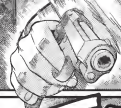
WHERE
HAVE I
SEEN
THEM
BEFORE
...?



SOFT
WHITE
HANDS!

.....
!!

I
KNOW...
THE
UFFIZI
...!!





YES,
SIR.

BRING
HIM TO
THE FRONT
GATE.
I WILL
SEND A
CAR
FOR YOU
IMMEDI-
ATELY.



FERRO,
IS THERE
ANY SIGN
OF ENEMY
REINFORCE-
MENTS
COMING UP
FROM THE
BASE OF
THE HILL?

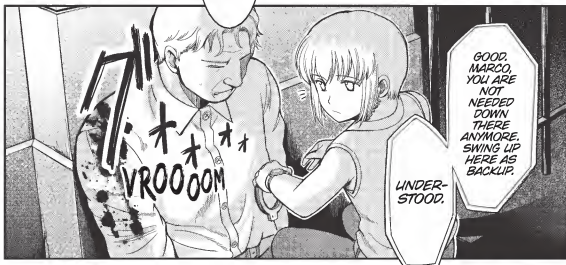


NO, SIR.
I'M NOT
SEEING
ANYTHING
OUT OF
THE
ORDINARY.

JUST
CIVILIANS
GOING
ABOUT
THEIR
DAILY
BUSINESS
IN
REGULAR
CARS.

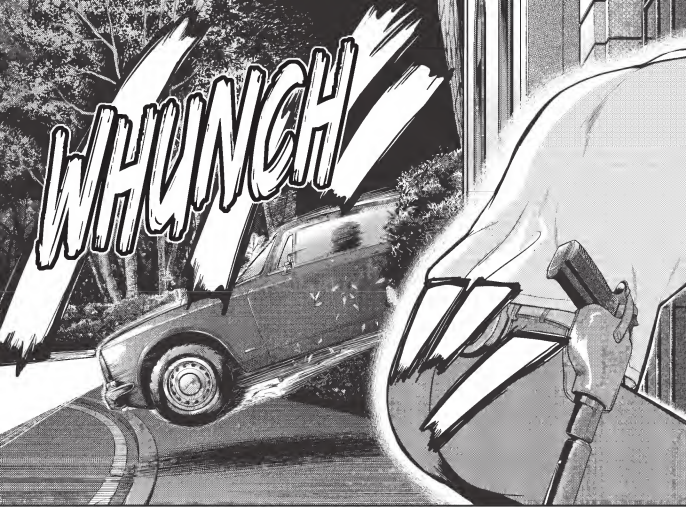


SIGNORE
JEAN,
I'VE
SECURED
THE
TARGET.

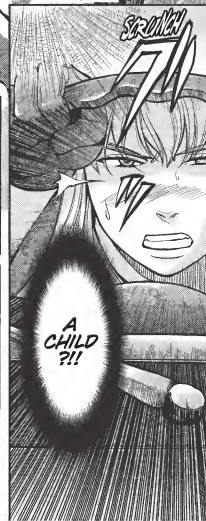
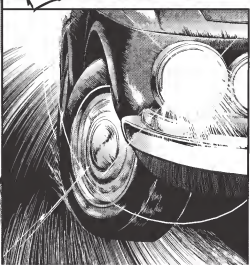
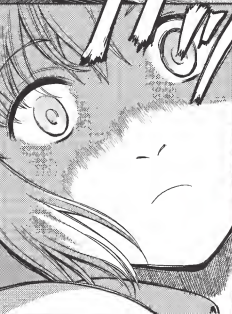


GOOD.
MARCO,
YOU ARE
NOT
NEEDED
DOWN
THERE
ANYMORE.
SWING UP
HERE AS
BACKUP.

UNDER-
STOOD.





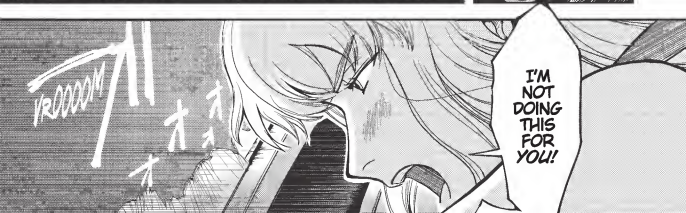




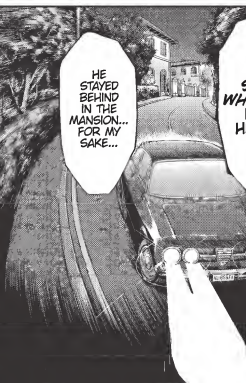




FRANCA...
WHY ARE
YOU
HERE...?
WHY
SAVE
ME...?



I'M
NOT
DOING
THIS
FOR
YOU!



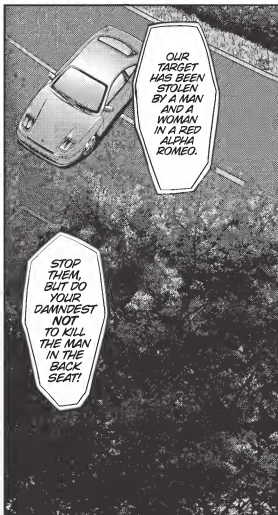
HE
STAYED
BEHIND
IN THE
MANSION...
FOR MY
SAKE...

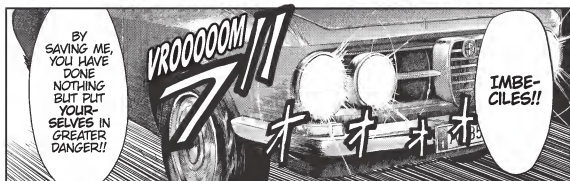


SO
WHERE
IS
HE?!

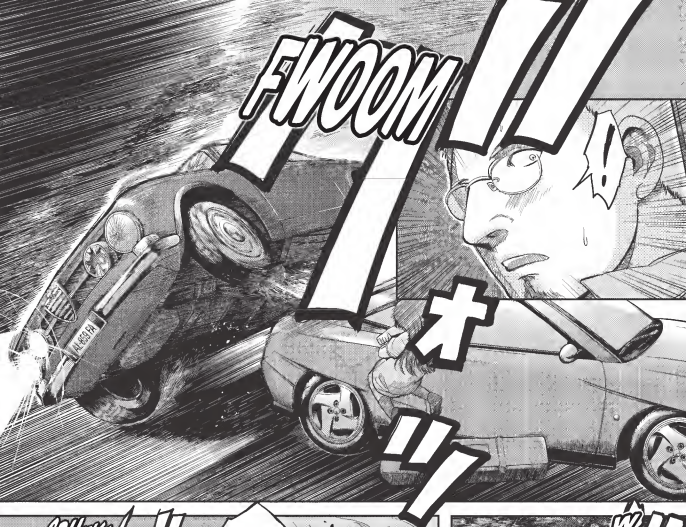


THIS
IS FOR
PINOC-
CHIO!!











CATERINA
!!

DON'T
DIE!!!

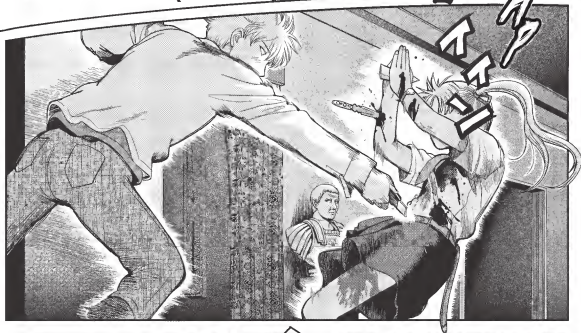


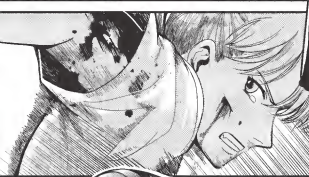
WOOOM

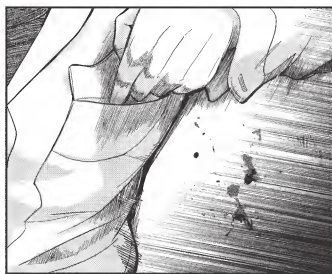
+

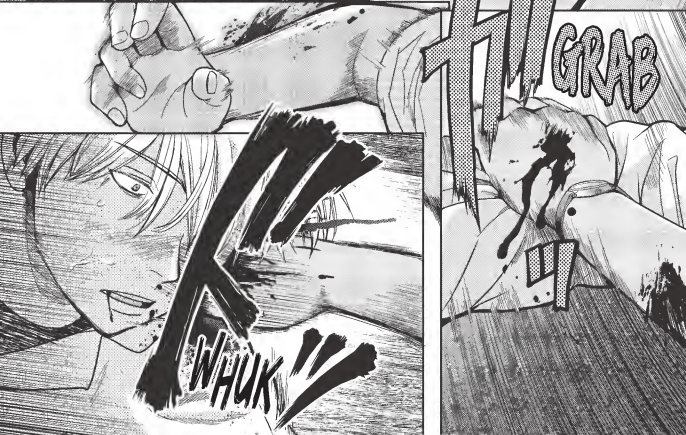
W

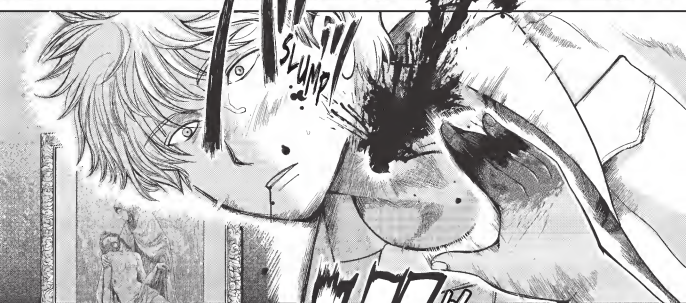
O
BLOOSH
R













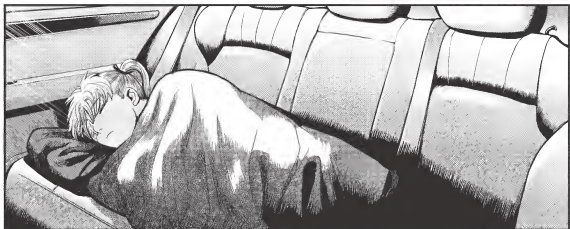
YES...
WE HAVE
DREDGED
UP THE
CAR.
HOWEVER,
WE HAVE
NOT YET
RECOVERED
ANY
BODIES...



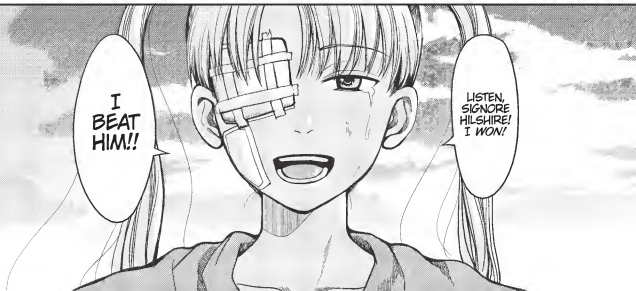
OF
COURSE...
WE SHALL
RETURN
TO HEAD-
QUARTERS
BY MID-
AFTER-
NOON.



YES...
YES...
WE DID
SUCCESS-
FULLY
RETRIEVE
CRISTIANO'S
LEDGER ON
PADANIA
ACTIVITIES.









AND IT'S
ALL
THANKS
TO THAT
SPECIAL
TRAINING
YOU
GAVE
ME.



PINOCCHIO
IS DEFIN-
ITELY
DEAD.
I KILLED
HIM WITH
MY OWN
HANDS!



JUST
LIKE YOU
ORDERED
ME TO!

I
KILLED
THE
BAD
GUYS
FOR
YOU...



DIDN'T
I DO A
GOOD
JOB?



GUNSLINGER GIRL vol.5

EDITOR

CHIAKI SUGIHARA

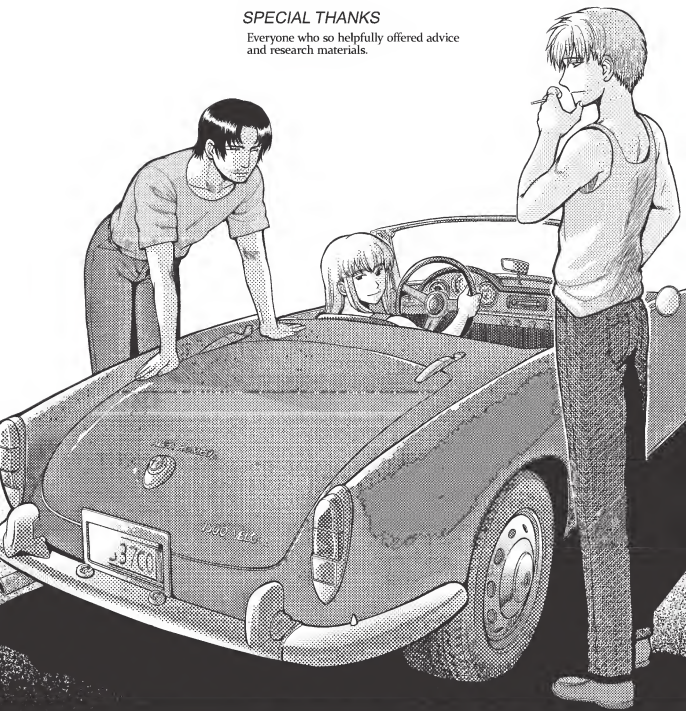
ASSISTANT

TAKAHIRO ENDO

JUNICHIRO YAGI

SPECIAL THANKS

Everyone who so helpfully offered advice
and research materials.



TRANSLATION NOTES

CHAPTER 24

“Padrona” roughly translates as “lady” or “boss.” In this case, Dominico and Paola address Franca as their employer and the land owner, but also as the “young lady” of the family which has employed them their entire life. It is a title that implies a relationship between a superior and an inferior.

Roads – In Europe, the roads that loop around metropolitan centers, which Americans generally refer to as a “bypass” or “beltway”, are called a “ring road.”

CHAPTER 25

“Bouncing Betty” is the nickname coined by the U.S. for the German S-mine, a particularly nasty anti-personnel landmine. Used extensively by Germany during World War II, it gets its name because when triggered, it first bounces up approximately 3 feet before exploding.

CHAPTER 26

Portrait – The famous portrait by Fra Bartolomeo is of Girolamo Savonarola, a Dominican friar known for his preaching against immoral art and literature, and against the wide-spread moral corruption of the clergy during the late 15th century. In particular, Savonarola rallied against the excesses of Rodrigo Borgia, who became Pope Alexander VI in 1492. Savonarola was excommunicated in 1497, and executed in 1498. It’s no coincidence that Cristiano shares the same last name, as another “activist” against a central authority.



ASSASSIN vs. ASSASSIN

The Social Welfare Agency: a secret counter-terrorism unit for the Italian government that rescues troubled young girls and turns them into cybernetically enhanced ruthless killers who do the government's dirty work.

Yet the child assassins are not as heartless as they were programmed to be. Henrietta struggles with her conflicted feelings towards her handler Jose, while fellow agent Triela combats her own inner demons as she strives to remember the girl she once was.

Meanwhile, the clash between the Social Welfare Agency and the covert radical group known as the Five Republics continues. As the Five Republics targets one of the Agency's handlers, the Agency plans its own counterstrike that will pit Triela against the professional assassin and martial arts master known as Pinocchio in a rematch to the death.

"Gunslinger Girl is one of those manga series that makes you think about what you've read once you put the book down. Unlike so many manga on the market, Gunslinger Girl has some real substance."

—IGN.COM



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MANGA



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